

FROM THE KENTUCKY-GAZETTE.
Opelousas in Lower Louisiana,
October 15, 1806.

DEAR SIR,
AS many of our fellow citizens may not have seen the causes which gave rise to our late dispute with the Spaniards in this country, I beg leave, in addition to my former details on this subject, to communicate the following account of the rise and progress of this affair.

Immediately after the cession of Louisiana from the French republic to the United States, it was a matter of primary importance that the line of demarcation between the Americans and Spaniards should be ascertained and fixed. According to the American executive directed certain ministers, then in Europe, to enter upon a negotiation for that purpose, with the court of Spain, which had ceded the country to France, just prior to its cession to the Americans.

These negotiations were depending. The president gave notice to the minister of Spain, that the river Sabine, which washes the western border of Louisiana, would be considered by the government, as the line between the two nations, until it should be specifically fixed by treaty. Whether this notification was ever communicated to the government of Mexico, is not certainly known. It is true, however, that our executive gave directions to the commanding officer at Natchitoches, that if the Spaniards attempted to cross the Sabine, they should be immediately driven on the other side of that river.

A party of Spaniards did actually pass it some time after the orders, for the purpose of taking possession of a tract of country which they alleged had never been included in the cession of Louisiana to the Americans, and which virtually belonged to his Catholic majesty. This body of men, by an ostensible and secret American under the command of Captain Johnson, of Natchitoches, were permitted to march beyond the Sabine. The Spaniards fired at their messengers on the part of the Americans, which they considered as an assault on their rights, and an actual commencement of hostilities, and immediately gave notice to the government of Mexico. It is said that the council of that province was immediately assembled, and that an army of 2000 men was ordered to be raised for the purpose of taking possession of the ground from whence the first party had been repelled by the Americans.

It is certain however, that sometime in the year 1805, the Spaniards sought to effect an arrangement in the cession of this side of the Sabine, between that year and the 15th of June, and continued to negotiate until the fall of 1806. Information of this arrangement was communicated to the government of the territory of Orleans, who immediately repaired to Natchitoches. A correspondence, conducted with considerable warmth, but by no means unfruitful to the existing posture of affairs, was opened between the governor and general Herrera, a field marshal in the Spanish service, and commander in chief of the Spanish armament on the Rio Grande.

The governor asserted the right of the United States to the territory upon which the Spaniards had encroached, and remonstrated on the injustice of the Spanish commander in having taken these American citizens, and fastened them on prisoners to Nagadoches, and for having prohibited several necessary articles from American citizens within the boundaries of the Spanish dominions. These dispatches were conveyed to Col. Hopkins, a young officer of considerable merit, to the Spanish camp. The governor received a verbal message from the Spanish commander, in reply, that he had not been vested with authority to enter into any specific investigation of the principles upon which the dispute of the two nations had been grounded; that he had sent the governor's dispatches to the captain general of Mexico, and that he held the nation where he was then encamped, by order of his Catholic majesty, from whence he could not retreat with or without compulsion.

In consequence of this message, conveying the fine language that the Spaniards were determined to maintain their ground on the Rio Grande, governor Claiborne thought it expedient to call out a part of the militia of the territory. A draft was accordingly made in the counties of Opelousas and Rapides. That part of the militia of Opelousas composed of Americans, turned out with great readiness; but the French discovered every mark of dissimulation to the cause. These people have been imposed on ever since the cession of Louisiana, by Spanish emissaries, who had selected them with the idea that the country would either be again ceded to the French or Spanish governments, or would form a domain of the Americans by conquest. When the Spanish armament was formed on the Rio Grande, they conceived that the period for the accomplishment of this event had arrived; and therefore resolved to remain neutral to avoid the censure of the Spanish government. The militia from Rapides marched on the expedition with considerable propinquity and spirit. They were principally Americans. From Opelousas, a troop of horse composed of volunteers was made up in the course of a few days and were in perfect readiness to receive orders to march. A very handsome corps, elegantly equipped, marched also from the Mississippi territory. The place of rendezvous was at Natchitoches, where there was a considerable number of effective troops stationed in the garrison at that place.

About the time when these military preparations for an attack on the Spaniards were making, general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches to take the command of the American forces. It is thought that the Americans would have been able to oppose between thirteen and fourteen hundred men to the Spanish armament, which from the British authority never consisted of more than eight hundred men. The Spaniards were all mounted on horseback, and armed with a dagger about a foot long, a small tuzer and a brace of pistols. The body was covered by a light shield worn on the left arm, and made of several hides of leather, firmly attached together, but by no means invulnerable to the rifle ball at a distance, or to the shot of the common horse-pistol, in close engagement.

As soon as general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches, he opened a correspondence with the governor of Montera, who was then at Nagadoches. Col. Cushing, the commander of the Fort at Natchitoches was sent to that place with dispatches, stating in mild, polite and dignified language the right of the United States to the tract of country then occupied by the Spanish armament, and expressing his surprize that the Spaniards should pretend to any kind of claim to a portion of territory which had actually been ceded to the Americans in the cession of Louisiana; that he had received positive orders from the American executive to repel any armament of the Spaniards which might be formed on this side of the Sabine, with an exception to the small settlement on Bayou St. Pierre; that it was the wish of the government to prevent the effusion of blood by every rational means of accommodation, but that the orders of the executive would be rigidly enforced if it became expedient.

Col. Cushing was politely received at Nagadoches and treated with great hospitality by the governor of Montera, who in reply to the communications of general Wilkinson, stated in a very short dispatch, that he was not authorized to enter upon an investigation of the existing differences between the two nations, but that the dispatches of the American commander in chief should be immediately communicated to the government of Mexico. The governor of Montera added in a verbal message, by Col. Cushing, that accounts had arrived from Madrid of an amicable negotiation between the two countries having taken place, that the Floridas had been ceded to the United States for eleven millions of dollars, and that under those circumstances, as it was not the desire of his government that blood should be shed upon that occasion, the Spanish armament should be withdrawn to the western side of the Sabine. It was accordingly ordered to pass that river.

A few days after the retreat of the Spaniards an office belonging to the army came in with dispatches from the governor general of Mexico. They contained an answer to those which had been sent to Mexico by general Herrera, which governor Claiborne and the officers and opened their correspondence. These dispatches were brought in two or six days, in a case of 7000 leaves, and being of a public nature, were opened by General Wilkinson. The governor of Mexico expressed his surprize that the Americans should lay in any claim of territory on this side of the Sabine; but it had ever been considered by the former governments which had successively held dominion over the country, as a territory of his Catholic Majesty, and that a large army had been collected in Mexico for the purpose of maintaining the claim of the king of Spain, that with respect to the American citizens who had been taken, they should be delivered up, provided it should appear that they had not violated the law of the country, and that the negroes who had been taken to the Spanish dominions should be returned to the proprietors. On that point the government of Mexico expressed a desire that some arrangements might be made between the two countries with respect to negroes who had been taken and passed into the dominions of either of the two nations.

The affair having advanced to his crisis, general Wilkinson demanded the prison at part of the militia, which had been assembled at Natchitoches, except a company of forty men commanded by captain Wells, and the Natchitoches troop of horse. As the Spanish government however, had asserted their right to the country lying between the Rio Grande and the Sabine, and had actually taken possession of it with a considerable armed force, general Wilkinson received it to be his duty to support the right of the United States to that territory, in the same manner. He accordingly wrote to general Herrera, informing him that it was his intention to fix his camp near the Sabine. Several companies of soldiers were marched towards that river; and by the aid of intelligence from Natchitoches, it was the intention of the general to move the main army forward, in the course of a few days.

The conduct of General Wilkinson upon this occasion, has been highly meritorious. He has acted in the presence of every military and political eye, with common moderation, promptitude and firmness. He had very great merit attached, not only to all the officers who have been engaged in these operations, but to the Americans in general who composed our little army. The principles of patriotism appeared to animate all their movements, which were upon occasions active, spirited and courageous, in a very high degree. Doctor Sibby has in his possession a very large volume of manuscripts, containing an account of the ancient tribes, and of the country, and of the general on its civil and political history. I had gone to Natchitoches a few days for the purpose of procuring additional accounts on the subject of Indian affairs. To Doctor Sibby I am already under great obligations for vocabularies of several Indian languages. Except by the spring to be enabled to complete my collections on this subject, of nine or ten different idioms. A copy will be presented to the American Philological Society, and one, also, to Doctor Barren of Philadelphia, to assist him in his investigation on the origin of Indians.

I am, dear sir, with much esteem,
Your most obedient
ALLAN B. MAGRUDER.
Mr. Daniel Bradford.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 10.
On Wednesday an elegant DINNER was given to CAPT. MERIWETHER LEWIS, by the Citizens of Washington, as an expression of their personal respect and affection, of the high sense of the services he has rendered his country, and of their satisfaction at his return in safety into the bosom of his friends. Among the company were Mr. Choteau, Mr. Provanchet, the Mandan Chief, several officers of government, members of Congress, and strangers of distinction. A general regret pre-aid at the absence of Capt. Clark, the friend and associate of Capt. Lewis, for whom the Dinner had been delayed for several days in expectation of his arrival in the City.

ROBERT BRENT, Esq. presided; supported by GARR. TINGLEY, and COL. WHARTON, as Vice-Presidents.
Capt. Lewis was received with the liveliest demonstrations of regard. Every one present seemed to be deeply impressed with a sentiment of gratitude, mingled with an elevation of mind, on setting down, at the festive board, with this favorite of fortune, who has thus successfully surmounted the numerous and imminent perils of a tour of nearly four years, through regions previously unexplored by civilized man.

After partaking of the gratifications of a well spread table, the following toasts were drank, interperred with appropriate songs and instrumental music:
1. The PEOPLE—Virtuous and brave; uncorrupt and incorruptible.
2. The CONSTITUTION—The ark of our safety, that will outlive the blackest storms.
3. The PRESIDENT of the U. States—May he receive the award of science, and the thanks of his country, for the fruits of those labors we are now assembled to celebrate.
4. CONGRESS—Wise laws will ever be cheerfully obeyed by an intelligent people.
5. WASHINGTON—Who, undaunted in adversity, and moderate in prosperity, possessed the zeal of a Patriot, and the wisdom of a Sage.
6. FRANKLIN—A name identified with Science and Liberty, with private virtues and public duties.
7. COLUMBUS—Our happiness the proud trophy of his daring spirit and prophetic wisdom.
8. The UNITED STATES—Who, by respecting the rights of her native children, has inspired them with reverence for her power, and affection for her laws.
9. The Red people of America—Under an enlightened policy, gaining by steady steps the combats of the civilized without losing the virtues of the savage state.
10. The Council Fire—May it long continue to diffuse a genial warmth, without consuming those who surround it.
11. SCIENCE—Which, animated by the enterprise of the American mind, has made the desert to blossom and the wilderness to smile.
12. UNION—May it be immortal! Honour to its friends—infamy to its foes.
13. PEACE—Our choice and our hope.
14. The MILITIA—An armed nation in the day of danger.
15. The ARMY and NAVY of the U. States—Satisfied with maintaining peace, but prepared at a moment's warning to unfold the terrors of war.
16. Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures—their interests, like those of the independent sovereignties they enrich and unite, are one and indivisible.
17. The District of Columbia—Unrepresented in the national councils, may she never experience the want of national patronage.
18. Capt. Lewis's retiring.
Capt. MERIWETHER LEWIS—Patriotic, enlightened, and brave; who had the spirit to undertake, and the valour to execute an expedition, which reflects honour on his country.
Captain CLARK, and the other brave companions of Capt. Lewis—Their patriotic and manly perseverance entitles them to the approbation of their countrymen.
The memories of Captains Cook, Bourgonville, and other circumnavigators, whose perilous enterprises and indefatigable labours have so much enriched the world in the science of geography.

VOLUNTEERS.
By Capt. Lewis—
May works be a test of patriotism, as they ought of right to be that of religion.
By Mr. Barlow—
Victory over the wilderness, which is more interesting than that over men.
By General Mason—
Man, in his most ennobled attitude, encountering danger and want for the good of his country.
By Mr. Fulton—
The American Eagle—When she expands her wings from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, may she quench her thunders in both.
By Mr. T. M. Randolph—
May actions, not eloquence, be acknowledged, as they are in fact, the true proof of talents.
By Mr. G. Clinton—
The cardinal objects of the Federal compact—the common defence and the general welfare.
Volunteers—May those who explore the desert never be deserted.

At an early period of the entertainment, the following elegant and glowing flanzas, from the pen of Mr. BARLOW, were recited by Mr. Beckley:
ON THE DISCOVERY OF CAPTAIN LEWIS.
Let the Nile cloak his head in the clouds, and defy
The researches of science and time;
Let the Niger escape the keen traveller's eye,
By plunging, or changing his clime.
Columbus! not so shall thy boundless domain,
Defraud thy brave sons of their right;
Suzanna, midlands and shorelands illude us in vain,
We shall drag their dark regions to light.

Look down, faintest sage, from thy synod of Gods;
See, inspired by thy venturesome soul,
Mackenzie roll northward his earth draining floods,
And furge the broad waves to the pole.
With the fame soaring genius thy Lewis ascends,
And, seizing the car of the sun,
O'er the sky-propping hills and high waters he bends,
And gives the proud earth a new zone.
Potowmack, Ohio, Missouri had felt,
Half her globe in their cincture compress;
His long curving course has completed the belt,
And tamed the last tide of the west.

Then hear the loud voice of the nation proclaim,
And all ages rebound the decree:
Let our Occident stream bear the young hero's name,
Who taught him his path to the sea.
These four brother floods, like a garland of flowers,
Shall entwine all our states in a band,
Conform and confederate their wide spreading powers,
And their wealth and their wisdom expand.
From Darien to Davis one garden shall bloom,
Where war's wearing banners are fur'd;
And the far-icing breezes that wait its perfume,
Shall fettle the farms of the world.

Then hear the loud voice of the nation proclaim,
And all ages rebound the decree:
Let our Occident stream bear the young hero's name,
Who taught him his path to the sea.
Cincinnati, Dec. 29.
In consequence of the Proclamation of the President of the United States, and the act of the legislature of this state, the militia under major general John S. Gano, were called, and a considerable number volunteered—others were drafted to actual duty, to the number of 120 men, a third part of which were stationed on the bank of the Ohio. Several boats were examined and discharged. On Sunday night, some very suspicious boats made their appearance & were brought to. The next morning they were examined, and although much suspicion existed respecting certain persons in the boats, yet on investigation, they produced two certificates from officers on the Virginia side of the Ohio, and no legal evidence could be obtained by which the agent for the state could be authorized to detain either the boats or persons; since which time nothing has transpired to excite alarm. On Christmas day captain Stoddart arrived at Newport, opposite this town, with 130 troops of the U. States, which with the detachment of militia, will preclude the possibility of any boats descending without being noticed.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.
Cincinnati, October 7th, 1806.
HENRY DEARBORN, Esq.
SIR,
I have the honor of transmitting you the enclosed resolution, which you will be pleased to lay before the President of the U. States, and you will much oblige.
SIR,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant,
JAMES FERGUSON.
Cincinnati, 7th Oct. 1806.

The first troop of dragoons attached to the first brigade, first division, of Ohio Militia, view the hostile appearance of foreign troops on our lines and boundaries as a prelude to war, and we do therefore resolve, That Captain Ferguson be requested to make an offer of our services to the President of the United States, and to inform him we shall hold ourselves in readiness to march wheresoever he may direct at a moment's notice.
(A true copy.)
By order of the troop,
JAMES FERGUSON, Capt.
MATTHEW NIMMO, Sec'y.

Washington, Dec. 3d, 1806.
SIR,
Your letter of October 13th to the Secretary at War, enclosing a resolution of the 1st troop of dragoons attached to the 1st brigade, 1st division of the Ohio militia, offering their services to their country, and to be in readiness to march at a moment's notice, wheresoever its interest may call for them, has been communicated to me. Always a friend to peace and believing it to promote eminently the happiness and prosperity of mankind, I am ever unwilling that it should be disturbed, as long as the rights and interests of the nation can be protected. But whensoever hostile aggressions on these require a resort to war, we must meet our duty and convince the world that we are just friends and brave enemies. Whether our difficulties with Spain will issue in peace or war, is still uncertain: and what provisional measures shall be taken for the latter alternative, is now under consideration of the legislature. The offer of service which the patriotism of your company has now made to their country, is a pledge that it will not be withheld in whatever form the national councils may authorize its use. Accept my thanks, on the public behalf, for the readiness with which this honorable tender has been made—with my respectful salutations and assurances of great consideration.
TH: JEFFERSON.
CAPT. JAMES FERGUSON.

50 bags PIMENTO,
JUST received per schr. Fortitude, Captain Lockman, from New York, and for sale by JOHN BUFFUM,
No. 84, Bowly's wharf.
January 17

NEW-YORK, January 15.
The brig Hannah, Comel, arrived last night, but not in so short a passage as reported by the Pilot. We have Hamburg papers to the first of Nov. If they contain any thing new they shall be given to-morrow. A passenger in the brig informs that part of the French army had entered Berlin; and the King of Prussia with considerable force was at Magdeburgh, where he was waiting the arrival of the Russian army, when another battle was expected.
January 16.
Yesterday morning between 12 and 2 o'clock, Mr. Van Dyke's chocolate manufactory and two other small back buildings, between Beckman and Fair Streets, were consumed by fire. The Firemen belonging to Enquies Nos. 6 and 7, have publicly returned their grateful thanks to Jacob Barker and Samuel Bushing, for their hospitable entertainment during the fire.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16.
General Eaton arrived in this city on Wednesday on his way to the seat of government.
Counterfeiters.—The New-York Commercial Advertiser of Tuesday last, says a young man, who has recently renounced the name of Bowers and assumed that of Dummore, was tried yesterday for passing counterfeit Bills on the Bank of Baltimore. His trial commenced at one o'clock, and closed at eleven. When the Jury pronounced him guilty, he took his pen-knife, while standing at the bar, tore open his waistcoat, and exclaiming, welcome death! stabbed himself several times in the breast. His wounds are however, slight. He is evidently one of the numerous gang of Counterfeiters, several of whom are in custody, and to be tried at the present court.

The reports (which we hope are exaggerated or idle) of Col. Burr's designs on New-Orleans, have had the effects of lowering the stock of the Banks, having branches or deposits in that city.
Letters from New-Orleans, of the 9th December, express an apprehension that the course of the man from that place, will be obstructed by Col. Burr's agents. This apprehension, added to the general state of agitation there, will no doubt, of itself, occasion much inconvenience and disappointment to the commercial interests.
We presume, that there has been an arrival from England, in our river, as letters from Liverpool, bearing the Post mark, of Wilmington, Del. were received in town this morning. Those which we have heard, were no later than the end of October, but it is likely she may bring later dates. The latest advices from England are to the 9th of Nov. by the Packet.

The governor of the Bahama Islands on the 1st instant, issued a proclamation permitting and allowing the importation of salt beef, pork and butter, from the United States of America, into the ports of Nassau, Exuma, Turks Island, Saint George and Crooked Island, as well in neutral as British vessels, for a period of six months.

RICHMOND, January 13.
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, on yesterday passed a resolution expressive of their wishes, that Mr. Jefferson should suffer himself to be considered as a candidate at the ensuing election for President.

LEXINGTON, VA.
Saturday Evening, January 4.
Col. Matthew Lyon passed through this town yesterday on his way to the Federal City. He stated that he believed that the rumor respecting Burr was without foundation—that Col. Burr intended nothing against the peace and happiness of the U. States—and that general Wilkinson was firmly attached to the government of the union and well calculated for the offices he holds.
Mr. Lyon further stated that Col. Burr had went down the river, and intended going round by water to call Gen. Eaton to account for circulating a report so injurious to his character.

LEXINGTON, (K.) Dec. 25.
The last accounts from Frankfort stated the legislature to be still in convalescence.
The governor is said to have ordered out 500 militia, to be stationed at different points on the Ohio, to intercept suspicious boats attempting to pass.
A gentleman direct from Cincinnati, states, that a number of men were stationed there, and two or three barges in the stream, to stop all boats from passing, until a satisfactory account of them should be given. He further states that several boats, supposed to be a part of Burr's flotilla, had been detained above, on board of one was Mrs. Blannerhasset, her husband having succeeded in descending the river, with about 16 boats. He further informs, that a company of troops were on their march, to protect the arsenal at the mouth of Licking.
Col. Burr, the source of alarm, which produced all these precautionary movements, was, it is said, at Gen. Jackson's, 10 miles from Nashville, on Wednesday last.

CHARLESTON, January 5.
On Friday last, the crew of the British ship *Croydon*, WILLIAMS attached