

From the Richmond Enquirer.
"Shall general Wilkinson respond to the demands of a host of enemies whetted by disappointment and stimulated by revenge? Shall he enter the lists of controversy with the partisans of the very rebellion he has himself crushed, or descend to controvert the slanderous assertions of calumnious discontents, who without the spirit to emulate a meritorious deed, possess the low ambition to cury it? We hope not—we hope his attentions will be carried to very different objects, in the present crisis of public affairs, standing, as we do, on the threshold of a war, which may require the exertion of the skill, conduct, and courage of the whole nation.

Pending the trial of Aaron Burr, we have beheld the most extraordinary scenes ever presented before a tribunal of justice; to impugne the character of general Wilkinson, as much solicitude has been manifested, as to vindicate the conduct of the traitor himself! And it has been with astonishment we have beheld volumes of testimony let in, totally irrelevant to the cause and calculated solely to blacken the character of a public officer, who (taken by surprise) found himself, without other defence, than that which accident provided for him.

We have seen witnesses of almost every country and denomination, the avowed enemies of general Wilkinson, hunted up from the remotest extremes of the union, to violate the seal of confidence and rip up the private transactions of his life!

We have been apprized that the notorious accomplice of Burr was the bearer of blank subpoenas, to that arch swindler, public defaulter and fugitive from justice, Edward Livingston, who inspired with the holy zeal of a full blooded conspirator, ran over Louisiana to fabricate ex-parte depositions, shaped for the occasion, and to collect testimonies against the general; and by artifices the most foul, to aid the cause of this suffering friend.

Wherefore is the general thus persecuted and abused? Wherefore are transactions of twenty years standing—transactions purely commercial, now distorted, misrepresented, and brought forward to defame him? Is it because he has been guilty of any act of infidelity to the government? Is it because he has failed to do justice to the high and honorable trust successively reposed in him by Washington, Adams and Jefferson? Is it because he has neglected a duty to be performed, or has failed in one solitary instance to promote the national weal, with that seal and ardor which characterize the man? No! His enemies may continue to howl, but it will be impossible for them ever to substantiate against him, political defection, or any dereliction of personal honor.

In what then has he offended, thus to draw down upon him the rancorous malice and unrelenting animosity of a motley tribe of adventurers? Can it be a crime with the invidious to be allied to have passed, with repute, through three successive administrations, and rendered satisfaction where he was responsible, and the sweets of office could not be permitted him, without that alloy of detraction which we find inseparable from public station in free governments. But, he is situated beyond forgiveness—because he refused to violate his oath—abandon his allegiance—turn his arms against the country he had sworn to defend, and dishonor his sword by becoming a military traitor. Herein we perceive "The very head and front of his offending." He has baffled the sinister aspirations of ambition—has destroyed the golden prospects of the scoundrel—and blasted the full-blown hopes of those deluded citizens, whom mortification and disappointment may have inclined to barter the union and independence of these happy states, for the humiliation of their political opponents. Reverse the scene; and what would have been the merits of this officer, if he had swallowed the gilded bait, and attached the seal of infamy to his name? What the effects would have been more manifest, but surely those who now condemn him for being a traitor, would have then applauded his conduct, and in place of a cross would have assigned him a crown;—Regard in that case would have been meritorious; the enormity of the offence would have been lost in the blaze of military glory, and a successful career might have sanctioned the deed!

After various feints of attack and changes of position from the "Port Folio" down to the "post marked letter 18th May"—the main assault is carried under the tattered banner of the Spanish conspiracy, and here too the assaults will be baffled, and those political Bores who have hovered around the walls of the Capitol, with the fond hope of noting on the spoils of the general's reputation, shall retire with empty crows.

However unpleasant the occasion; the arts, frauds, and falsehoods of his enemies, seem to render it necessary that the private dealings and transactions of general Wilkinson, of twenty years standing, should be abstracted on the public attention, and that the motives, by which his personal speculations were produced and regulated at that remote day, should be exposed.

It will be remembered, and by the citizens of Virginia particularly, that the situation of the settlements of Kentucky pending the years 1785-8, were not only humiliating but perilous—it is not forgotten that the current of migration to the West, was considered a perilous drain from the population of the East, that the progressive improvements of our Western Wilds were viewed with jealous eyes by many, and men of distinction have been heard to implore heaven, that the Pacific Ocean should wash the Western foot of the Appalachian mountains. On the eve of a separation from the parent state, these sympathies, and obligations which had heretofore cherished and protected the district of Kentucky, were about to be dissolved—The inhabitants of that, then, sequestered region, without protection from the general government, saw their frontier settlements every where exposed to the savannah and scalping knife, and without the navigation of the Mississippi, the produce of their labor were left to perish on their banks. What, let us enquire, was

The government at that period? A mere form of said—Nevertheless, without resources, and subsisting on a diurnal expedient. What was the policy of the administration, in those days?—Narrow, local, exclusive, and invidious—State interests, and State distinctions were then predominant, and the faithful family had not yet sat down to a single repeal. An objection from the smallest state, was sufficient to mar the most salutary proposition; and the most precious interests of the confederation were subject to the caprice of a single member. It was in the year 1786 that a proposal was offered to Congress for the concession of the exclusive navigation of the Mississippi, to Spain, for twenty-five years, under the pretext of an exchange for certain commercial privileges to the Atlantic States, and in order to acquire the right of Estoppel. The proposition terrified the Western people and suggested the necessity of their looking to their own rights and interests. The alarm and abhorrence produced by this measure were universal, the children of the woods began to think and speak for themselves, and but for the seasonable production and adoption of the glorious fabric, which cements United America, a separation long before this period would have ensued as a necessary consequence.

General W. had migrated to the Western country in 1783, in quest of provision for a young and increasing family. He at this period considered his hopes jeopardized, and determined to look abroad for what he had not found at home. With this object he made a small equipment and embarked on Kentucky river in April 1787, and after escaping many perils from the savages, he arrived at New-Orleans in June.

For the events which ensued, we beg leave to refer to the document A. This honorable testimonial will serve to illustrate a fact, which hundreds of living witnesses may be produced to sustain, viz. that general Wilkinson did procure to his fellow-citizens in the West on his own risk and expense, the invaluable advantages of a free trade with New-Orleans, years before that privilege was obtained by treaty. It is neither necessary nor obligatory, nor would it be honorable to detail the means he employed to effect this object; it will suffice to say, that his country was accommodated and benefited, by his enterprise, and that his personal speculations, in their nature politically innocent, were deflected to the friendly correspondence, harmonious intercourse, and reciprocal interest of the two countries, and it will not be denied that he had the same right at that period to establish a mercantile connection at New-Orleans, which the merchant of the United States have at present, to extend their commercial speculations to Vera Cruz and Laguna, or to Turkey, China and the East-Indies.

The general has acknowledged the author of these remarks, that he originally contemplated removing to Natchez, and did favor the policy of the court of Spain, at that time to populate that district with emigrants from the United States, for motives too obvious to name. His commercial engagements were exclusively with the Spanish government of Louisiana. As he never sold a cent's worth of property, in the market, after his voyage, of course the cash he received was from the government of the country, and this he either received in person on his bills or by remittance through various channels. The full payment was made him in the year 1796 through his agent Philip Nolan, being a balance which had arisen on the recovery of some tobacco which it had been believed was damaged, and lost in the year 1789.

On the general's first engagement, a cypher was formed, more for the security of the communications of his friend, than his own, and when his friend left the country about the year 1799, their affairs being unsettled, he transmitted the cypher to his successor whom the General never saw; but with whom he recollects to have passed one or two letters in cypher, respecting his private business about fourteen years since.

The last letter the General received from the Baron de Carondelet was dated in May 1797. It was strictly official and conveyed the Baron's protest against the defendant of a body of troops, which the general had detached to demand possession of the posts on the Mississippi, agreeably to the treaty of friendship, limits, and navigation. The General rebuffed this protest, and the troops proceeded under captains Guion and Heth, for reasons of a confidential nature an order was passed by the General to the officer commanding at Maffac, to prevent the agent of the Baron from re-entering the United States by the Ohio. It is believed that the Baron de Carondelet came to the government of Louisiana about the year 1791, at which time the general left Kentucky and has been since incessantly engaged in military life; and the documents marked B will exhibit general Washington's sense of his services during three years of arduous duty; from whence it will appear that general Wilkinson was actually engaged in defending, instead of dividing the country.

General Wilkinson has never by word or deed endeavored to incline a single individual to oppose the laws or injure the government of his country. He has never received nor employed a dollar for the purposes of corruption. He has never held a commission nor received a pension from any foreign power. Nor has he ever given a test of allegiance but to his own country. He cannot prove a negative, but he has done what he could do to purge himself of the imputation of his enemies, and the correspondence with his excellency governor Folch (marked C) and his voluntary declaration of captain Thomas Power (marked D) are offered as inducements.

Was the defamatory address of that moon-struck wretch Joseph Hamilton Davies (who has acknowledged himself to have been a spy and a liar) deemed worthy of notice, he may illustrate once more from his den Cornland, and seek an answer in these observations.

A KENTUCKIAN.
24th October, 1807.
Major Pike.
(No. A.)
Extract from a Memoir submitted to the Honorable Timothy Pickens when Secretary of State, by the Honorable Daniel Clark.
"About the period of which we are speaking in the middle of the year 1787, the foundation of an intercourse with Kentucky and the settlements on the Ohio was laid, which daily increases. Previous to that time, all those who ventured on the Mississippi had their property seized by the first commanding officer whom they met, and little or no communication was kept up between the countries; I now and then an emigrant who wished to settle in Natchez, by a circuitous and tedious route, and a few who had interest in New Orleans, procured permission to remove there with their families, slaves, cattle, furniture and farming utensils, and were

allowed to bring no other property except cash. An expected blockade, however, changed the face of things and was productive of a new line of conduct; the arrival of a boat belonging to general Wilkinson loaded with tobacco and other productions of Kentucky, is announced in town, and a guard was immediately sent on board of it. The General's name had hindered this being done at Natchez, as the commandant was fearful that such a step might be displeasing to his superiors, who might wish to have some respect to a general officer. At any rate the boat was proceeding to Orleans, and they could then resolve on what measure they ought to pursue, and put them in execution. The government not much disposed to show any mark of respect or forbearance towards the general's property, he had having at that time arrived, was about proceeding in the usual way of confiscation, when a merchant in Orleans who had considerable influence there, and who was formerly acquainted with the general, represented to the governor that the measures taking by the Intendant would very probably give rise to disagreeable events; that the people of Kentucky were already exasperated at the conduct of the Spaniards, in seizing on the property of all who investigated the Mississippi, and that this system was perfectly unwise, very probably, in the late of Congress and the Executive of the U. S. take upon themselves to obtain the navigation of the river by force, which they were able to do; a measure for some time before much dreaded by this government, which had no force to resist them if such a plan was put in execution. This were likewise given that Wilkinson was a very popular man, who could influence the whole of that country, and probably that his finding a boat before him with a with that he might be seized, was as a fare laid for the government, that he might have an opportunity at his return to influence the minds of the people, and having brought them to the point he wished, induce them to appoint him their leader and then like a torrent, spread over the country and carry fire and destruction to the one end of the province to the other. Governor Miro, unacquainted with the situation of Kentucky, and respecting to his own province, and alarmed at the very idea of an invasion of Kentucky, men whom he feared would destroy their strength, communicate his sense to the Intendant, that the guard should be removed from the boat, which was accordingly done; and a Mr. Parterton, who was the agent of the general, was permitted to take charge of the property on board and to sail on his duty. The general on his arrival in New Orleans, some time after, informed of the obligation he lay under to the merchant who had impeded the government with such an idea of his importance and influence at home, waited on him, and in concert with him formed a plan for their future operations. In his interview with the governor, that he might not seem to derogate from the character given of him by appearing concerned in trafficking a business as a boat load of Tobacco, ham and butter, he gave him to understand that the property belonged to many citizens of Kentucky, who availing themselves of his return to the Atlantic States by way of Orleans, wished to make a trial of the temper of this government, that he on his arrival might inform his owners what steps had been pursued under his eye, that adequate measures might be afterwards taken to procure redress. He acknowledged with gratitude the attention and relief manifested by the governor towards himself in favor of his agent; but at the same time mentioned that he would not wish the governor to express to the agents of court, by remaining from leaving on the boat and cargo (as it was but a trifling affair) were the positive orders from court, and that he had no power to relax them according to circumstances. Convinced by this discourse that the general rather wished for an opportunity of embroiling affairs, than to avoid it. The governor became alarmed; for two or three years before particularly since the arrival of the emigrants from Georgia who had come to Natchez to claim that country, he had been fearful of an invasion at every annual rise of the waters, and the news of a few boats being seen on the Ohio was enough to alarm the whole province, he resolved in his mind what measures he ought to pursue, [consistent with the orders he had from home] to permit the free navigation of the river in order to keep the people of Kentucky quiet, and in his succeeding interviews with Wilkinson having procured more knowledge than he had hitherto acquire of their character, population, strength and dispositions, he thought he could do nothing better than hold out a bait to Wilkinson to use his influence in restraining the people from an invasion of this province, till he could give advice to his court and require further instructions.—This was the point to which the parties wished to bring him, and being informed that in Kentucky two or three crops were on hand for which, if an immediate vent was not found, the people would not keep within bounds; he made Wilkinson the offer of a permission to import on his own account to New-Orleans free of duty all the productions of Kentucky, thinking by this means to conciliate the good will of the people, without yielding the point of navigation; as the commerce carried on would appear the effect of an indulgence to an individual which could be withdrawn at pleasure. On consultation with his friends who well knew what further concessions Wilkinson could extort from the fear of the Spaniards by the promises of his good offices in preaching peace, harmony and good understanding with this government until arrangements were made between Spain and America, he was advised to inform that the governor should inform him a market for all the flour and Tobacco he might send, as in the event of an unfortunate shipment he would be ruined, would endeavoring to do a service to Louisiana. This was accepted, flour was always stored in Orleans, and the King of Spain had given orders to purchase more Tobacco for the supply of his manufactory at home than Louisiana at that time produced and which was paid for at about 9 1-2 dols. per cwt. In Kentucky it cost but two, and the profit was immense. In consequence the general appointed his friend, Daniel Clark his agent here, returned by way of Charleston in a vessel with a particular permission to go to the U. S. even at the very moment of Gardaneur's information, and on his arrival in Kentucky, bought up all the produce he could collect, which he shipped and disposed of as before mentioned, and for some time carried trade from the Ohio was carried on in his name, a like from him suffering to insure to the owner of the boat every privilege and protection he could desire. On granting this privilege to Wilkinson, the government came to a resolution of encouraging migration from the Western country, and offered passports to all settlers with an exemption of duty on all the property they might bring with them in vessels in the produce of the country they came from.

Under the denomination of (B) and (C) there were several other boats, which were admitted to their address which were admitted free of duty and under pretence of following shortly after with their families continued their speculations, others came with their property, had lands granted them, which after locating they disposed of and having finished their business returned to the U. S. a few only remained in the province and they were the people, who, in general, availed themselves of the immunities granted by the government; they possessed a few slaves and cattle, but had little other property, and they generally settled among their countrymen in the Natchez and increased the cultivation of tobacco. At that time the principal article raised for exportation in the district. This encouragement given to emigrants and speculators opened a market for all the produce of the Ohio. Flour was imported from Pittsburgh and the farmers finding a vent for all they could raise, their lands augmented in value, their industry increased and they have exported annually to Louisiana for some time past from 10 to 15 000 barrels of flour, for which they generally find a ready market."

(No. B)
SUNDRY EXTRACTS
Of letters from Gen. Knox, Secretary of War, to Brigadier Gen. James Wilkinson.
MARCH 3d, 1792.
"The steps you have taken to procure information of the state of the Indians were highly proper, and in future you will use every expedient to gain information of their designs."

"The President of the U. S. will be anxious to hear of your safe return from your excursion to the field of action; and this anxiety is in proportion to the risk you appear to encounter by so near an approach to the Miami Indians, and near which, it is our intention to collect near five hundred Indians may be collected in a short time."
Another extract from the same letter.
"This is an active position must be attended to you and general Parterton, the country is untenable, as you may judge proper. A few boats with 500 lbs of a military powder, to each country, might continue perhaps, the main part of this protection, and by such a number of ranges of the pay and rations of the troops of the U. S. States, as shall be judged indispensable by you."

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"The real and prompt steps with which you executed the wishes of the executive, and marked with pleasure, and will not fail of procuring the approbation of the President of the U. S."

"I am with sincere pleasure I transmit you the nomination of an appointment of Brigadier General, and I am very glad the other gentlemen appointed to act with you, as well as the commanding general, will be perfectly agreeable to you."

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"The ideas you have conceived, of employing some one hundred mounted volunteers, for the defence of the U. S. States, and you are hereby authorized to carry it into execution, upon the pay stated in the law herein referred to."
"These volunteers are to be engaged for a period of three months, unless sooner discharged, and you will appoint the officers thereof; you will however observe, that their corps, as well as your other corps, are not to be employed in offensive measures pending the negotiations for peace."

MAY 13th, 1792.
"I have not yet heard of your return from establishing Fort St. Clair, and therefore some anxiety is entertained upon that subject. But the confidence in your discretion, is no small relief upon the occasion."
JULY 17th, 1793.
Although I have not received any information of the safe departure of Col. Hardin and Major Irwin, yet from Mr. Hodgdon's information, they set out from Fort Washington upon Harmer's trace, about the 20th of May. That they were to proceed to a certain distance, and then to separate: Hardin to pass for St. Duskey, and Irwinman to the rapids of the Ohio. I hope sincerely they may have arrived safely and succeeded so as to prepare the way for Gen. Putnam.
"The terms you stipulate to Col. Hardin, shall be performed on the part of the public."
"The direction you gave Major Hambrank, of endeavoring to persuade the chiefs of the Wabash to repair to this city, was highly judicious, and it is desired that he may accomplish it."
"Your remarks of the disproportionate punishments of death, or one hundred lashes are just—and the suggestions of hard labor seem to promise better success, and I shall communicate the same to Major Gen. Wayne—this is within the power of a court according to the present rules and articles of war."
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"The seal and activity you have exhibited to further all the objects of public service is highly gratifying to me, and have to express it, both to the President, who is in Virginia, and general Wayne."
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"As the commanding general has descended the river to Fort Washington, it is unnecessary for me to reply particularly to your several letters, otherwise, than to thank you heartily for the various extensive and important information you have communicated from time to time; all of which was duly communicated to the President of the United States.
"Brigadier General Possy, who will deliver you this letter, is a gentleman from whom I flatter myself the service will derive solid benefits. I suppose he will arrive time enough to descend with Mrs. Wilkinson, with whom you will be at the time of receiving this letter, and to whom please respectfully to present my homage.
"I have often expressed to her and col. Biddle, the pleasure your conduct gave the President of the United States. I am impressed with the conviction that you will persevere in the same paths.
"My God! what an uproar in Europe! If the French nation shall be united and consolidate their force within their limits, they will be invincible, although they must differ immensely in the process. But a doubt rests upon their union.—If they are divided almost equally, they will be conquered. What a scene the European theatre would be for your military talents."
DECEMBER 4th, 1794.
"The difference between you and Major General Wayne is considered as very unhappy, and tarnishing in a degree the military part of our national reputation. Indeed my friend, there is no information, no complaint, against you by him, that has been transmitted to this office. In his public letter he pays you merited applause. This has been circulated through the U. S. States and Europe. Cannot therefore some mode be suggested, to bury in oblivion all that is past, and which indeed appears to me to be more the effect of nice feelings than any palpable cause? I am persuaded that such a conciliation would be highly acceptable to the President of the U. States for public consideration."
(NO. C.)
New Orleans, January 25th, 1807.
SIR,
I best my apology for the intrusion of my personal concerns on your attention, upon those sympathies, which connect military men throughout the civilized world, and that sensibility which inclines every honest breast to resist persecution.
You have doubtless observed in the public prints of the United States, that my name and character have been slandered and stigmatized, for a criminal undertaking, imputed to me, with the Spanish governors of Louisiana; and that I am charged with holding a commission and drawing a pension from the government of Spain.
If my memory serves me, Sir, you were here, when I first visited this city in 1787, and I think you were the nephew of the deceased governor Miro, and have lived on this station ever since; under those circumstances and in your present station it would seem probable, that if I am pensioned or commissioned by the court of Spain, the fact must come within your knowledge, and it is therefore, Sir, I presume to request from you the peculiar favor, to declare upon this honor of a gentleman and an officer whether such a fact has ever come to your knowledge, or whether you believe it has existence.
Your prompt and explicit declaration will oblige,
SIR, Your most obedient Servant,
JA. WILKINSON.
His Excellency, Governor }
FOLCH, Baton Rouge }
BATON ROUGE, 10th February 1807.
Mr. General,
Your favor of the 25th ultimo has come to hand, and so far from feeling any reluctance in complying with your request, it is with the greatest satisfaction that I answer the contents of your letter. The militia life has become now-a-days a scientific profession, and those who embrace it laying aside political or national prejudices, consider themselves as brothers; and under this point of view your present prosecution cannot be indifferent to me.
I solemnly declare to you that I have resided in these provinces of Louisiana and W. Florida, with little or no interruption since the 14th of July 1783 (when I came to N. Orleans at the pressing invitation of my beloved uncle Don Estevan Miro, who was at that time governor of them) to this period; and it being publicly known that in a quality of a near relation and intimate friend, no person ever possessed this confidence in a greater degree than myself, it may be presumed that no person can give a more satisfactory answer to your queries than myself.
It is barely within the limits of possibility that notwithstanding the unlimited confidence my uncle placed in me, he may have concealed from me at that period, the circumstance of your holding a commission and enjoying a pension from the court of Spain; but as neither the title nor the order is ever conferred without

made payments to their address which were admitted free of duty and under pretence of following shortly after with their families continued their speculations, others came with their property, had lands granted them, which after locating they disposed of and having finished their business returned to the U. S. a few only remained in the province and they were the people, who, in general, availed themselves of the immunities granted by the government; they possessed a few slaves and cattle, but had little other property, and they generally settled among their countrymen in the Natchez and increased the cultivation of tobacco. At that time the principal article raised for exportation in the district. This encouragement given to emigrants and speculators opened a market for all the produce of the Ohio. Flour was imported from Pittsburgh and the farmers finding a vent for all they could raise, their lands augmented in value, their industry increased and they have exported annually to Louisiana for some time past from 10 to 15 000 barrels of flour, for which they generally find a ready market."

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I best my apology for the intrusion of my personal concerns on your attention, upon those sympathies, which connect military men throughout the civilized world, and that sensibility which inclines every honest breast to resist persecution.
You have doubtless observed in the public prints of the United States, that my name and character have been slandered and stigmatized, for a criminal undertaking, imputed to me, with the Spanish governors of Louisiana; and that I am charged with holding a commission and drawing a pension from the government of Spain.
If my memory serves me, Sir, you were here, when I first visited this city in 1787, and I think you were the nephew of the deceased governor Miro, and have lived on this station ever since; under those circumstances and in your present station it would seem probable, that if I am pensioned or commissioned by the court of Spain, the fact must come within your knowledge, and it is therefore, Sir, I presume to request from you the peculiar favor, to declare upon this honor of a gentleman and an officer whether such a fact has ever come to your knowledge, or whether you believe it has existence.
Your prompt and explicit declaration will oblige,
SIR, Your most obedient Servant,
JA. WILKINSON.
His Excellency, Governor }
FOLCH, Baton Rouge }
BATON ROUGE, 10th February 1807.
Mr. General,
Your favor of the 25th ultimo has come to hand, and so far from feeling any reluctance in complying with your request, it is with the greatest satisfaction that I answer the contents of your letter. The militia life has become now-a-days a scientific profession, and those who embrace it laying aside political or national prejudices, consider themselves as brothers; and under this point of view your present prosecution cannot be indifferent to me.
I solemnly declare to you that I have resided in these provinces of Louisiana and W. Florida, with little or no interruption since the 14th of July 1783 (when I came to N. Orleans at the pressing invitation of my beloved uncle Don Estevan Miro, who was at that time governor of them) to this period; and it being publicly known that in a quality of a near relation and intimate friend, no person ever possessed this confidence in a greater degree than myself, it may be presumed that no person can give a more satisfactory answer to your queries than myself.
It is barely within the limits of possibility that notwithstanding the unlimited confidence my uncle placed in me, he may have concealed from me at that period, the circumstance of your holding a commission and enjoying a pension from the court of Spain; but as neither the title nor the order is ever conferred without