

ing that he, or any other man could excite a party in this country, who would countenance him in such plot of desperation, murder and treason. He replied, that he perhaps, knew better the dispositions of the influential citizens of this country than I did. I told him, one solitary word would destroy him. He asked, what word? I answered, *Usurper!* He smiled at my hesitation, and quoted some great examples in his favour. I observed to him, that I had lately travelled from one extreme of the union to the other; and, though I found a diversity of political opinion among the people, they appeared united at the most distant aspect of national danger. That, for the section of the union to which I belonged, I would vouch, should he succeed in the first instance here, he would within six weeks afterwards have his throat cut by Yankee militia.

Though wild and extravagant Mr. Burr's last project; and though fraught with premeditated slaughter, I felt very easy on the subject, because its defeat he had deposited in my own hands. I did not feel so secure concerning that of disjoining the union. But the very interesting and embarrassing situation in which his communications placed me, left me, I confess, at a stand to know how to conduct myself with propriety. He had committed no overt act of aggression against law. I could draw nothing from him in writing; nor could learn that he had expressed his plans to any person near me by whom testimony could be supported. He had mentioned to me no persons who were principally and decidedly engaged with him except General Wilkinson—a Mr. Alston, who I found was his son-in-law—and a Mr. Ephraim Kibby, late a captain of rangers in General Wayne's army. Satisfied that Mr. Burr was resolute in pushing this project of rebellion in the west of the Alleghany, and apprehensive that it was too well and too extensively organized to be easily suppressed; though I dreaded the weight of his character when laid in the balance against my solitary assertion, I brought myself to the resolution to endeavor to defeat it by getting him removed from among us, or to expose myself to all consequences by a disclosure of his intentions. Accordingly, I waited on the President of the United States; and after some desultory conversation, in which I aimed to draw his view to the westward, I used the freedom to say to the President I thought Mr. Burr should be sent out of this country—and gave for reason, that I believed him dangerous in it. The President asked where he should be sent? I mentioned London and Cadiz. The President thought the trust too important, and seemed to entertain a doubt of Mr. Burr's integrity. I intimated that no one, perhaps, had stronger grounds to mistrust Mr. Burr's moral integrity than myself; yet, I believed, ambition so much predominated over him that, when placed on an eminence and put on his honor, respect to himself would ensure his fidelity: His talents were unquestionable. I perceived the subject was disagreeable to the President; and to give it the shortest course to the point, declared my concern that if Mr. Burr were not in some way disposed of, we should, within eighteen months, have an insurrection, if not a revolution, on the waters of the Mississippi. The President answered, that he had too much confidence in the information, the integrity, and the attachment to the union of the citizens of that country to admit an apprehension of the kind. I am happy that events prove this confidence well placed. As no interrogatories followed my expression of alarm I thought silence on the subject, at that time and place, became me. But I detailed about the same time, the whole projects of Mr. Burr to certain members of Congress. They believed colonel Burr capable of any thing—and agreed that the fellow ought to be hanged; but thought his projects too chimerical and his circumstances too desperate to give the subject the merit of serious consideration. The total security of feeling in those to whom I had rung the tocsin, induced me to suspect my own apprehensions unseasonable, or at least too deeply admitted; and, of course, I grew indifferent about the subject. Mr. Burr's visits to me became less frequent; and his conversation less familiar. He appeared to have abandoned the idea of a general revolution; but seemed determined on that of the Mississippi; and, although I could perceive symptoms of distrust in him towards me, he manifested great solicitude to engage me with him in the enterprise. Weary of his importunity, and at once to convince him of my serious attachments, I gave the following toast to the public:—The United States—false to the brain that should plot to dismember, and treachery to the hand that will not draw to defend the union.

I doubt whether the sentiment was better understood by any of my acquaintance than colonel Burr. Our intercourse ended here—we met but seldom afterward. I returned to my farm in Massachusetts, and thought no more of Mr. Burr, nor his empire till some time late in September or beginning of October, when a letter from Morris Belknap, of Marietta, to Timothy E. Danielson, fell into my hands at Brimfield, which satisfied me that Mr. Burr had actually commenced his preparatory operations on the Ohio. I now spoke publicly of the fact—transmitted a copy of the letter from Belknap to the department of state, and about the same time forwarded through the hands of the post master general to the President of the U. States, a statement in substance, of what is here above detailed concerning the Mississippi conspiracy of the said col. Aaron Burr—which is said to have been the first formal intelligence received by the executive on the subject of the sonspirator being in motion.

I know not whether my country will allow me the merit of correctness of conduct in this affair. The novelty of the duty might, perhaps, have embarrassed stronger minds than mine. The uprightness of my intentions I hope will not be questioned.

The interviews between colonel Burr and myself, from which the foregoing statement has resulted, were chiefly in this city, in the months of February and March, last year.

WILLIAM EATON.

Washington City, Jan. 26, 1807.
Sworn to in open court this 26th day of January, 1807.

Wm. BRENT, Clk.

Deposition of James L. Donaldson

In open court personally appeared James Lewis Donaldson, who being duly sworn, deposes and saith, that he was in the city of New-Orleans, in the Orleans territory, and the environs of said city, from the fifteenth of October to the tenth day of December, 1806—that during the latter part of this time he was frequently in the company of General James Wilkinson, and visited the General the day after his arrival at New-Orleans. On this occasion this deponent received in confidence from General Wilkinson information to the following purport:—That the General had undoubted and indisputed evidence of a treasonable design formed by Aaron Burr and others to dismember the union, by a separation of the western states and territories from the Atlantic states—that New-Orleans was in immediate danger, and that he had concluded a hasty compromise with the Spaniards, so as to be able to withdraw his troops instantly to this the immediate object of attack and great vulnerable point—that he had received a letter from Burr holding forth great inducements to him to become a party, of which he showed me the original in cypher, and another written paper purporting to be a decyphered copy of the letter. He expressed great indignation at the plot and surprise that one so well acquainted with him as Burr should dare to make to him so degrading a proposal, and declared his determination of defeating the enterprise, or perishing in the attempt. He observed in addition that there were many agents of Mr. Burr then in the town, who had already been assiduous in their visits, and towards whom he was determined to act with cautious ambiguity, so as at the same time to become possessed of the whole extent of the plan, the persons engaged, and the time of its execution, and also to prevent any attempt on his person, of which he declared he had serious apprehensions.—Of the number of these agents he was not aware, but mentioned the name of two of whom he was certain, Messrs. Bollman and Alexander. From time to time, as this deponent had interviews with General Wilkinson, he informed this deponent that he had received additional information respecting the movements and designs of Burr by means of these agents, of whom he considered Bollman as the principal. In the course of these transactions, this deponent was employed by General Wilkinson in the copying of certain papers and documents and preparing certain dispatches for the general government, which the general intended to forward by the brig *Thetis*.—While thus employed at the General's lodgings, this deponent has remarked upon two different occasions, a person knock for admittance at a door with a window in it opposite the table where this deponent was sitting, who this deponent was informed by General Wilkinson was Dr. Bollman. Upon these occasions the General has suddenly risen from his seat, and accompanied this person in a number of turns up and down a balcony in the front of the house, apparently engaged in deep conversation. Upon the latter of these occasions the general on his return into the chamber said to this deponent, "that is Dr. Bollman, his infatuation is truly extraordinary, he persists in his belief that I am with Burr, and has this moment shown me a letter from the latter, in which, he says that he is to be at Natchez on the 20th December with two thousand men, that 4000 will follow in the course of a few days, and that he could with the same ease, have produced double that number." General Wilkinson then observed that he had obtained all the information he wanted, and that the affair would not be kept much longer a secret from the public.

When this deponent left the city of New-Orleans the inhabitants of that city were in a state of great alarm and apprehended a serious attack from Mr. Burr and his confederates. This deponent understood that mercantile business was much embarrassed and great fears were entertained of considerable commercial failures in consequence of the embargo which had been imposed—that General Wilkinson was taking strong measures of defence, and that four hundred persons were then actually engaged in the fortifications of the city.

And further this deponent saith not.
JAS. L. DONALDSON.
Sworn to in open court.

Wm. BRENT, Clerk.

January 26, 1807.

DEPOSITION

OF

Lieutenant W. Wilson.

I left New-Orleans on my way to this city on the 15th of December last; at that time, and for some time preceding, the strongest apprehensions and belief universally prevailed among the inhabitants of that city, that Aaron Burr and his confederates had prepared an armed force, and were advancing to attack and plunder the city, in consequence of which the greatest alarm prevailed, a ge-

neral stagnation of business ensued, and the danger was credited there as a matter of public notoriety.—That brigadier general Wilkinson with the army of the United States was at New-Orleans, occupied in the most active military preparations for the defence of the place; repairing the forts, mounting cannon, collecting ammunition, &c. All under the firm persuasion and belief that such an attack was meditated, and about very speedily to take place, by the said Burr and his confederates; this deponent knows that the general was decidedly of opinion; from the most satisfactory information, that the said Burr and his confederates were advancing with an armed force against the place—and further this deponent saith not.

Signed, Wm. WILSON.

Sworn to in open court, this 27th day of Jan. 1807.
Wm. BRENT, Clerk.

The deposition of Ensign W. C. MEAD is precisely similar to that of Lieut. Wilson, except that the former states that he left N. Orleans on the 19th of December.

WILMINGTON.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1807.

THE ship *John B. Francis*, capt. Silliman, arrived at Charleston on the 5th inst. in 35 days from Bordeaux, furnishes French accounts to the latter end of December.

The following summary of the news is from the *Times* of Thursday evening:

It appears from the French Bulletins (thirty-nine in number) that the two armies met on the 26th November:—The Russians under the command of Gen. Benigsen, attempted to prevent the French from entering Warsaw; but were overthrown, and pursued as far as Blonic. The Grand Duke of Berg entered Warsaw on the 28th; and the Russian troops had recrossed the Vistula, with an intention to remove into the heart of the country. The Russians have declared war against the Porte; Choczin and Bander are surrounded by their troops—they have also recrossed the Doreister, and pushed on as far as Jassy.

Marshal Davoust has crossed the Vistula, and established his head-quarters before Prague. The Emperor of France had his head-quarters at Posen on the 9th December.

The fortresses of Glogan and Rassenburgh, have surrendered to the Bavarian army under Jerome Buonaparte.

A suspension of arms was concluded by Luchezini, the Prussian minister, on the 17th November—but the king of Prussia had declared he could not ratify it, assigning for reason, that a part of his states, were occupied by the Russians; that he was entirely in their dependence; and therefore could not execute the stipulations of the armistice.

Eighty thousand French conscripts are ordered to be raised for the year 1807.

The foregoing intelligence we have collected from the French papers.—The last verbal accounts, however, which we have received from the gentlemen who came passengers in the ship, are, that it was whispered, when they sailed, that the advanced guards of the French Emperor had been cut to pieces by the Russian troops. The loss was said to be from eighteen to twenty thousand men. This information was generally credited at Bordeaux—but no printer dare give it publicity.

General Hutchinson and suite arrived at Copenhagen on the 6th December, on their way to Petersburg.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

In our Imperial Camp at Berlin, November 21st, 1806.

NAPOLEON,

EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH AND KING OF ITALY.

Considering—

1st. That England does not admit the rights of persons, universally allowed by all polished nations.

2d. That she regards as an enemy, every individual belonging to the enemy's state, and in consequence makes prisoners of war, not only all the crews of vessels fitted out for war, but also the crews of merchantmen, and even the merchants and commercial agents who go voyagers, for the purpose of transacting their business.

3. That she extends to vessels and commercial merchandize, and to the property of individuals, the right of conquest, which can only apply to what belongs to the state of the enemy.

4th. That she extends to commercial towns and ports unfortified, to harbours and mouths of rivers, the right of blockade, which conformably to the reason and custom of all civilized nations, is applicable only to fortified places.

That she declares places blockaded, before which she has not given a single ship of war, although a place is only blockaded when it is invested in such a manner, that no attempt can be made to approach it, without incurring an imminent risk.

That she even declares in a state of blockade, places which all her united forces would be incapable of blockading; entire coasts, and a whole Empire.

5th. That these monstrous abuses of the right of blockade, have no other object in view but to prevent the communication between nations, and to raise the commerce and industry of England on the ruin of the industry and commerce of the Continent.

6th. That such being the evident objects

of England, whoever carries on upon the Continent a trade in English merchandize; by that means favours her designs, and renders himself her accomplice.

7th. That this conduct of England, worthy in every respect of the first ages of barbarity, has been to the advantage of that power, to the detriment of all others.

8th. That it is a natural right to oppose the enemy with the arms he makes use of, and to fight him in the same manner as he fights, when he forgets all ideas of justice, and all liberal sentiments, the result of civilization amongst men.

We have resolved to apply to England the usages she has consecrated in her maritime legislation.

The dispositions of the present decree will be constantly considered as the fundamental principle to the Empire, until England has recognized that the right of war is one and the same on land as on sea; that she cannot extend it to private property, of whatever nature soever, nor to the persons of individuals foreign to the profession of arms, and that the right of blockade must be restrained to fortresses really invested by sufficient forces.

We have in consequence decreed, and do decree what follows:—

Art. I. The British Islands are declared in a state of blockade.

II. All commerce and correspondence with the British Islands, are prohibited. In consequence, the letters or packets addressed either to England, or to an Englishman, or written in the English language, shall not be allowed to pass at the post-offices, and shall be seized.

III. Every English subject, of whatever profession or condition soever, who shall be found in the countries occupied by our troops, or by those of our allies, shall be made a prisoner of war.

IV. All magazines, merchandize and property whatsoever, belonging to an English subject, shall be declared a lawful prize.

V. The trade in English merchandize is forbidden; and all merchandize belonging to England, or coming from its manufactories and colonies, is declared a lawful prize.

VI. The half of the produce of the confiscation of merchandize and property, declared a lawful prize by the preceding articles, shall be employed to indemnify the merchants for the losses they have sustained by the capture of their merchantmen by English cruisers.

VII. No vessels coming directly from England, or from the English colonies, or having been there since the publication of the present decree, shall be received into any port.

VIII. Every vessel which, by means of a false declaration, shall transgress the above clause, shall be seized; and the vessel and cargo shall be confiscated as if they were English property.

IX. Our prize tribunal at Paris shall pronounce final sentence in all disputes which may arise in our Empire, or in the countries occupied by the French army, relative to the execution of the present decree. Our prize tribunal at Milan, shall pronounce final sentence in all such like disputes which may arise throughout our kingdom of Italy.

X. Communication shall be made of the present decree, by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the kings of Spain, Naples, Holland, and Etruria, and to our other allies, whose subjects are victims, like our own, of the injustice and barbarity of the English maritime legislation.

XI. Our Ministers, for Foreign Affairs, of War, Marine, Finances, and Police, and also our Post Masters General, are charged, each as far as concerns him, with the execution of the present decree.

(Signed) NAPOLEON.

By the Emperor,
The Minister Secretary of State,

H. B. MARET.

Extract of a letter from Charleston, dated Feb. 9th, to a gentleman in this town.

"The unexpected news we have received from England, has brought every thing to a stand, so much so, that not a sale has been made for these four days, either of rice or cotton. Our harbour is full of ships, and freights excessive dull. Some merchants who have several Dutch ships laden with rice and ready for sea, have expressed a determination to unlade them and lay the ships up in ordinary."

Extract of a letter from a respectable house in London, to their correspondents in Charleston, dated

"LONDON, Dec. 26, 1806.

"Nothing new in politics, except that we hear there has been an engagement between the Russians and a division of the French army, in which the latter had been roughly handled. The King of Prussia, who has spurned with indignation Buonaparte's overtures for a negotiation, has, with 40,000 men, effected a junction with the Russians; and would soon have 40,000 more—Russia has actually 300,000 men on their march, so that we have some gleam of hope left—no sale of produce.

Charleston, February 9.

By the brig *EUPHEMIA*, capt. TORREY, arrived yesterday, in 15 days from New-Orleans, we have received the papers of that city to the 21st ult. The papers are entirely silent on the present situation of that country; but we learn, verbally, that the city still continued in the greatest state of fermentation—many arrests had taken place; among the most conspicuous persons arrested, were, General JOHN ADAMS, late a Senator in Congress of the United States, from the state of