

THE RALEIGH MINERVA.

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No. 751.

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FROM THE SPIRIT OF SEVENTY SIX.

This day commence the publication of a volume of documents which accompanied the report of the committee appointed by congress, at the session, to investigate the conduct of General Wilkinson. Many of these interesting documents were never, we believe, before exhibited to the view through the medium of the public press. They ought to be read with interest and attention by every friend of the country—especially at this time, like the present, when the people have the most correct and authentic information in regard to the character and conduct of the commander in chief. We shall make no comment on these important documents. They speak a language too plain to be misunderstood. They are, most of them, solemn depositions of respectable and disinterested citizens, many of whom stand high in the confidence of the government and the nation. The people will judge for themselves. When informed, they always decide justly. Their duty must and will be obeyed.

We have commenced with the third and fourth of inquiry which relate to General Wilkinson's connection with Aaron Burr, and of his appointment as Brigadier General of the armies of the United States. The first object relates to the disbursement of money by Gen. Wilkinson from the government or its agents; and the second to his connection with the agents of Spain, in a view to dismember the United States. We also give the documents relative to the mortality of the army of the U. States.—all of which shall have due attention.

WILKINSON.

From the report of the Committee, appointed to inquire into the conduct of Brigadier Gen. James Wilkinson.

Relative to the third point of inquiry, to wit: Wilkinson's connection with Aaron Burr. No. 78.

WILKINSON TO GENERAL ADAIR.

DEAR SIR,
I did not answer your letter by Taylor, but I regret that I procured him a pension of 20 dollars per month. I was to have introduced my letter to you, but in this I failed by accident. He understands your merits and reckons on your preparing to visit me and I will tell you we must have a peep at the unknown world and me. I shall want a pair of strong carriage horses, at about 120 dollars each, young sound, substantial, but not flashy. I am in debt, and in spite of the neglect of friends and shameful omissions of attorneys, have this given Sir—a damper.—Perdition over the Jew scoundrel; he had nearly destroyed me by a decree of which I have had no intimation although it is almost seven years old. Enough for the present.

Thine ever,

J. A. WILKINSON.

Ohio, May 28th, '05, }
11 o'clock, A. M. }
Write me private.

General Wilkinson's introduction of Col. Burr to Daniel Clark.

DEAR SIR,
This will be delivered to you by Col. Burr, whose worth you know well how to estimate. If persecutions of a great and honorable man can begette to generous attentions, he has claims to your civilities and all your services. You can oblige me more than by such conduct; and I will refer you for many things improper to be said, & which he will not say to any other. I shall be at St. Louis in two weeks, and if you were there, I could open a mine, a commercial one at least. I shall hear from you. Farewell. Do well, and believe me always your friend.

J. A. WILKINSON.

Daniel Clark, Esq.
Papers relative to the fourth point of enquiry.

(S.)
Deposition of William Simmons, Esq.

At the time I attended your honorable committee, in conformity to your summons of the 9th instant, when I was requested to detail any, and every information that I possessed, in relation to the conduct of brigadier general James Wilkinson. In answer to the points expressed in the resolution from the house of representatives, I will proceed to give such testimony as has come to my own knowledge, and such corroborating information received from others, in my official capacity on the investigation of the subjects, which, from the relative comparison, I have every reason to believe are also facts—viz:
In answer to the first part of the inquiry, relative to the Spanish agency, I know nothing about it. In relation to any concern that he might have had in the Burr business, the only information that has come to my knowledge, is in the dis-

bursement of public monies, drawn from the public agents, at New-Orleans, in the year 1807, for the freight of vessels chartered by him to transport prisoners and witnesses from New-Orleans to the seat of government, and sundry advances to witnesses, fees to lawyers, &c. said to be incurred by the conspiracy of Aaron Burr; which disbursements as well as others, to a considerable amount, paid by warrants immediately from this department, drawn by the former secretary of war, for sundry objects of the like nature, and for which there was no specific appropriation to which I could charge these expenditures; I was therefore unable to credit the agents, or enter the account to any head of expenditure, until the 29th of November, 1809, when the present secretary of war, to enable me to enter the account, directed, that as the disbursements had been made by virtue of orders from the department of war, in the years 1800 and 1807, that they were chargeable to the contingent fund of the war department, there being no other head of expenditure to which they could be properly charged; I have accordingly entered the account, and can give no other information on the subject.

In answer to your enquiry to "state the amount of money received by general Wilkinson in the year 1804, from Josiah Taylor, assistant military agent at New-Orleans, for public service," I reply, that the only money he appears to have received from Taylor, at any time on public account, is a sum of three thousand dollars, received on the 24th April, 1804.

In answer to your inquiry relative to extra rations, claimed by general Wilkinson, and how allowed, I reply, that in January, 1809, an account was presented to me, admitted by Henry Dearborn, secretary of war, for extra rations, claimed by General Wilkinson as commanding officer at Natchitoches and New Orleans, from 13th September, 1800, to the 24th May 1807, at thirty six rations per day, including a charge for quarters, stabling, &c. amounted to 2,033 dollars, 16 cents, which claim I rejected and refused to allow.—first, because I considered that any allowance to general Wilkinson, other than what was fixed by the act of the 16th March, 1802, was inadmissible; and that colonel Cushing and colonel Freeman, as commanding officers, having drawn extra rations at the same posts, for the same time, and that no two officers could be entitled to extra rations, at the same time, for the same post. General Wilkinson, however, appealed from my decision, to the accounting officers of the treasury, to whom I stated my objections fully, in a letter to the comptroller, under date of the 10th January, 1809, who, on the 11th January, 1809, returned me the account, and the opinion of the attorney general, with directions to pass the amount to the credit of general Wilkinson, on the books of my office; which I have accordingly done. On the 8th of June, 1809, general Wilkinson presented another account to lieutenant S. Knight, district pay master at New-Orleans, and obtained payment from him, for thirty-six rations per day, from 13th of March, to the 30th September, 1809, amounting to 1,454 dollars 40 cents.—This payment was made by lieutenant Knight, on the authority of a letter from Henry Dearborn, secretary of war, under date of the 4th January, 1809, and exhibited to me for a credit to the paymaster and a charge against the United States, which I have refused to admit, being paid contrary to law, and that general Wilkinson's account already stands charged with considerable sums of public money, unaccounted for. This account I have reported to the treasury with my objections, in a letter to the comptroller, under date of the 16th March, 1810, requiring a final decision at the treasury, which has not yet been done. After the allowance had been made to general Wilkinson, for extra rations for the period, and at the time for which they had been received by colonel Cushing and colonel Freeman, I called, upon these gentlemen to refund, for the period allowed to the general. They have both refused; contending that they were the only persons entitled to extra rations as commanding officers at these posts. I have however, directed the paymaster to put them under stoppages, till the amount is refunded. Col. Cushing in his letter to me under date of the 18th June, 1809, after stating that he was the commanding officer entitled to the extra rations, a circumstance, he says, well known to the general and every officer and soldier at the post, he then observes, "But I am assured by the general, that the subsistence allowed to him by the President, was intended as a partial reimbursement, for some six or seven thousand dollars which he had expended in the affair of Burr; and if this assurance be correct, it is impossible that my right to double rations at Natchitoches, and to triple rations at New-Orleans, can, in any shape whatever, be affected by his allowance."

In answer to your inquiry relative to the charge against him, for the freight of flour and apples from Baltimore to Charleston, thence by a public vessel to the Havana, &c. I observe, that on the examination of the accounts exhibited against the U. S. by the assistant military agent at Charleston, it appears that in February, 1809, a payment was made upon the order of gen. James Wilkinson for the freight and charges of the schooner

Wolf, from Baltimore to Charleston, amounting to 1,099 dollars in full for the passages of general Wilkinson, major Saunders, major Robinson, captain Williams and consul Anderson, and twenty-five non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, and waiters with their baggage, including fifty barrels of flour and twelve barrels of apples, for general Wilkinson, from Baltimore to Charleston, where I have been informed they embarked on board the brig Hornet, for the Havana, on their way to New-Orleans; and, conceiving that the payment for the passage of general Wilkinson and consul Anderson, and the freight of the flour and apples, was an improper charge against the United States, I did accordingly charge the amount for these objects, being 425 dollars to the personal account of general Wilkinson.

In answer to your inquiry, of the amount of monies paid by captain Moses Hook, as military agent at Pittsburg, to general Wilkinson, or upon his order, and for what purpose. On reference to the accounts of Moses Hook, as assistant military agent, he has paid to sundry persons, for a boat and fitting her up, to transport the general and his family to N. Orleans, \$199 65

Paid to the general on account, for which he gave his receipt on the 14th of May, 1805, to be accountable to the accountant of the war department, for 700

Paid to John Dickey, Samuel Thompson, John Frush, John Philips and James Cook, for wagoning from Washington City, Baltimore and Philadelphia, to Pittsburg, on the order of general Wilkinson, under date of the 14th May, 1805, amounting to 262 96

The whole amounting to eleven hundred and fifty-two dollars, sixty-one cents; all of which I have charged to the personal account of general Wilkinson, because, the two first sums were for his own personal account, and captain Peter was furnished with money to defray all proper transport of baggage to Pittsburg, in May, 1805.

It may here not be improper to observe, that Moses Hook's account as quarter master general to the expedition to the Sabine appointed by general Wilkinson, stands charged on the books of my office, to warrants on the treasurer, with the sum of dollars. 16883 12 cents, being the amount of sundry bills drawn by him on the secretary of war, in October and November, 1806, and January, 1807. No such appointment as quarter master general is authorised by law, neither is there any particular appropriation, or head of expenditure, to which such payments are chargeable. I have repeatedly called upon captain Hook to produce vouchers for the expenditure of the above sum, which he has never done.—In a conversation with him not long since, he observed, that a considerable sum of the money had been drawn out of his hands by General Wilkinson, on account of secret services, and for which he only had the General's receipt. Captain Hook is now out of service, and his account has been reported to the treasury for a suit. It may also be proper to observe that if general Wilkinson has received money from Mr. Hook, for secret services, that his account already stands charged on the books of my office, with a further sum of 2,500 dollars received in the 10th January, 1807, from Abraham D. Abrahams, the military agent at New-Orleans, for the like purpose; and that on the 10th January, 1809, he obtained a certificate from the President of the United States, a warrant upon the treasury, & received payment for the sum of 1196 dollars.—expressed as being for so much disbursed by him for objects in relation to the contingent expenses of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations. Why this amount was not directed to be passed to the credit of secret service money, charged to him on my books, I am at a loss to say.

In answer to your inquiry relative to the purchase of horses from Frederick Sandhagen, I observed on the examination of the accounts of Abraham D. Abrahams military agent at New-Orleans, that in May 1809, general Wilkinson directed to be purchased, and approved for payment, to Frederick Sandhagen, the sum of 800 dollars for five horses purchased from him, one of which is stated to be for the light artillery. This created some surprise, that more horses should be purchased at New-Orleans, in addition to the artillery horses that were sent down the river with the light artillery, when hay was at 70 dollars per ton, and oats at 1 dollar per bushel. The charge for the horses was therefore suspended till captain Peter arrived, who was inquired of respecting the horses purchased. He then stated that the five horses purchased from Sandhagen, were part of eleven purchased by major Morrison of Kentucky for general Wilkinson; that the general had ordered him (captain Peter) when he was about to descend the Ohio, to stop in the river to take on board his boats, the horses purchased for the general by major Morrison. He accordingly received eleven horses; and that by so doing he was detained several days with three or four hundred men, at a considerable expense to the United States. That finally, they were taken on board the public boats, and until

their arrival at New Orleans, were supported out of the public forage, of which there was a great deal laid in for the use of the horses belonging to the light artillery. That upon reaching New-Orleans, the horses were delivered up as the private property of the general. That the five sold to the United States, were charged at an extravagant high price; and that Frederick Sandhagen was formerly an old hack driver in this city, and was at the time of selling the horses, a servant to general Wilkinson, and not likely to be owner of horses.

I also found, that the eleven horses, before any part had been sold to the United States, had been kept and shod at the public expense. All of which I communicated to Mr. Eustis, the secretary of war, who immediately wrote on to New-Orleans, and ordered all the horses sold, that could be done without. There was accordingly upwards of twenty sold, and only four retained for the use of the army.

In answer to your inquiry, relative to the manner of his drawing public monies from the pay-masters and agents; and if any was for objects unauthorised and improper, I observe, that he has generally drawn what he was legally entitled to by anticipation; and that he has been frequently in the habit and does draw money from the pay-masters & public agents, which are unauthorised by law. I have consequently been compelled to charge all such disbursements to his personal account; thereby considerably increasing the balance standing to his debit on the books of this office, which I have repeatedly urged him to account for as may be seen by my letters of the 20th of February, 23d March and 16th of November, 1808, copies of which have already been before the House of Representatives.

Wm. SIMMONS.

Department of war, Accountant's office, April 13, 1810.

(To be continued.)

LEXINGTON, July 31.

THE FLORIDAS.

An event is about to take place in those provinces which deeply interests the citizens of Kentucky in particular, and the Western country generally. The following letter, together with other information, will be read with solicitude. It is represented that in West Florida there are not one hundred families who were not born citizens of the United States: why are not the majority then, as well calculated for a republican form of government, as for that of an absolute monarchy? If the Mr. Skipwith who is supposed to have framed the proffered constitution is an American, and an American in principle, why draft for their acceptance a tyranny ten fold worse than the government of Spain? Britain will no doubt have her agents, and will not leave any mode unattempted to induce those provinces to place themselves under her protection: the event is of the greatest importance to our fellow citizens, as it respects the navigation of the Mobile and Mississippi.—Should Britain be able to obtain a footing, it requires not the gift of prophecy to foresee the consequences.

The attention of our rulers we trust will be directed with energy to what directly concerns the interest of the farmers of the Western country: and should the majority of the citizens of those provinces wish a union with us in preference to Britain, or any other foreign power, we humbly conceive that Congress and the administration ought, and we trust they will risk every consideration in their support.

In the mean time an immediate duty, calls imperiously on the Executive.

Extract from a letter to a gentleman in Lexington, from his friend in the Mississippi Territory, dated POINT COUPEE, 24th June, 1810.

"I yesterday returned from St. Francisville, a little town in the Spanish Territory, where I found the whole country in a state of rebellion. A plan has been drawn up by some person at Baton Rouge, for the government of the province.— Their names are not known, but it is supposed Mr. Skipwith is at the head. The most important parts of the proposed form of this new constitution, are the following.—That the people are to elect a Governor, Secretary and Council of Three, to take possession of the country in behalf of Ferdinand the 7th: if he should again be restored to the throne of old Spain—otherwise, they are to hold their offices for life.—The governor having authority to appoint all inferior officers, judges, alcaldes, syndicks, &c. &c. for the administration of justice, with full power to remove them at pleasure, provided a majority of his council concur. It is in reality from the apparent intention and meaning of its framers, nothing more or less than an elective monarchy, giving as ample and uncontrollable powers to their governor, as the most arbitrary Prince in Europe possesses. Immediately upon the promulgation of this plan, a meeting of the people took place, where a great deal was said upon the subject; both pro and con, the crowd was such that I could not get near enough to hear distinctly all the debates, but their final determinations were, "That the people labored under many and weighty grievances from