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[From the National Intelligencer]

Washington, Aug. 11, 1810.

GENTLEMEN,

I will thank you to give publicity to the enclosed address to the people, and I shall feel myself obliged by all, whose liberality and candor may incline them to republish it.

With respect,

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. WILKINSON.

Messrs. SMITH & GALES,
Editors of the National Intelligencer.

To the People of the United States.

Although I had resolved not to obtrude myself upon your attention, until I could have invited it to the irresistible force of my vindication, I am driven from my purpose by the proceedings of the late committee of Congress, the sole object of the majority of which appears to have been, to search for matter to criminate my character and conduct; the report made to the House consisting of inculpatory evidence alone, instead of being confined to their journals, as now under publication and will naturally tend to excite your prejudices, before I have been heard in my defence; what man among you, who has been engaged in the public service more than a quarter of a century, whose acts and offices have been as varied as mine, could withstand an occult, inculpatory enquiry, if backed by the power and purse of the nation? My cause is the cause of all, and if the measure of injustice aimed at me be suffered to prevail who among you will be safe, from the most exalted to the most obscure? I conjure you then, defend yourselves against the dangers, and your country against the odium, of having sacrificed a fellow citizen to the malice of those who have been combined for the destruction of your government; for, bear in mind, should the precedent obtain, that the House of Representatives have power to institute enquiries into conduct of individuals, and to publish the testimony they may collect, before the accused has been heard, no man will be safe against the jealousies of artful, unprincipled popular declaimers, who, professing the public good, seek only the gratification of their ambition and revenge. The ruin of an individual, taken in the abstract, is of little importance, but the example may infuse a deadly poison into your councils, and reanimate the dormant hopes of those who conspired against your interest, your happiness and union; for treason, like the leprosy, as incurable, and the heart once corrupted by its poisons, is lost to patriotism and public virtue forever.

Little discernment is requisite to trace the source of the vilifications I have incurred. You witnessed the rise and progress of my persecutions, coeval with Burr's conspiracy and coextensive with its affiliations. I did not involve the nation in a war on the Sabine, to give effect to this conspiracy, though my orders warranted it in the repulsion of the Spaniards; and on my own discretion, I defeated the wicked plot, disgraced the prominent actors and blasted the sinister aspirations of numerous and powerful associates; for these signal services, I am more signally persecuted, than any man, public or private, in times ancient or modern. The conduct which, without bloodshed, saved the country, from the dangerous encroachment of a foreign power, and from lawless usurpation and a civil war, was palpable and specific; it cannot be expunged from the national records, and you yourselves are witnesses of it. The crimes imputed to me are speculative and legendary—originating with loose and corrupt men, some of them acknowledged traitors, and supported in the first instance, by public malcontents and personal enemies: yet these men with indefatigable industry and shameless malignity, have employed every engine and art to awaken suspicion and excite your jealousies; and a life devoted to my country from the dawn of the revo-

lution, has become a theme of declamatory invective: I am denounced in solemn and deliberate bodies, by men of your elections, without proof on their part or any hope of redress on mine. It is notorious that justice has been denied me, and that I have been excluded in a land of liberty—my native country, the ordinary rights of the most humble citizen.

You have beheld a distinguished character step forth the avenger of Burr's discomfiture, and associating himself with vile informers, denounce me in the dawn of the conspiracy, before a single fact had been developed; and to justify his denunciations, you have witnessed the ruthless vengeance, with which this political teacher has since pursued me, at the expence of every thing sacred to delicacy, to truth and candor. You have seen this faithful coadjutor, the legate of Burr's resentments, a man who has sealed his own infamy in the attempt to effect my ruin, come forward with a volume of manufactured reports, falsehoods and perjuries fitted to the occasion: and you have beheld an hundred pens and presses, operating against me, when distant, absent, and offering my health and life to the public service: but it would swell this appeal to a volume, did I attempt to develop the systematic schemes of vengeance, by which I have been hunted to the present hour.

Thus pressed and persecuted, I have no resort but in your virtue and good sense; I make it in confidence that you will suspend your opinions, until I present you with the only defence in my power to offer; and if in the course of the exposition, which has been forced upon me, I should be obliged to inflict wounds, where I have been desirous to spare feelings, the duty which I owe to the character of a soldier, to my name and family, and the sense of my wrongs, must excuse me.

No calumny shall force me from the silence I now impose on myself. I shall make a brief record of all the slanders which may reach my knowledge, & will attend to them in their proper place: But before I close the present address, I consider it my duty solemnly to pledge my honour, that I shall bring proofs from authentic sources to put to shame, the profuse offerings which have been made to effect my dishonor, as a citizen, a soldier and a chief, by a long list of willing witnesses, whose passions, prejudices and resentments have interested them in my destruction. The war of an individual against a host, is enough to stagger the stoutest heart, but habit has placed the above difficulties, and under the protection of that Almighty power, in whom I trust, I will succeed.

Fellow Citizens!

I crave not forgiveness for offences, because I have committed none.

I seek not to excite your sympathy, because I am conscious I have deserved it.

But I invoke that justice, which is guaranteed to all by the sacred charter of the land, and constitutes our pride, our boast, and common security—Let me be heard before condemnation.

J. A. WILKINSON.

Washington, Aug. 1810.

[Communicated for the Freeman's Journal.]

Copy of a letter from a gentleman at Havana, to another in this city, dated

HAVANNA, 30th July, 1810.

Dear Sir,

I have just witnessed a scene from the upper story of my house, so awful and solemn, as almost to chill my blood—the execution of the sentence herewith enclosed.

The youth and appearance of the prisoner, his solemn acknowledgement to the public at the prison door, of his guilt, and the justice of his sentence, and his great contrition, and the decent deportment of all classes of people, thro' whom he passed from the prison to the place of execution, made the scene truly solemn and awful.

The arrangement made by the government on the accusation, entitles him to high credit; as it not only insured safety to the people, but tranquility to the city. Not an insult was offered to the prisoner, and his conduct was such as to draw down the pity of all who saw him on his route to the place whence he took his leave of the world. There are a number of his associates now in the United States; and three

or four of them hourly expected here, who will on their arrival share a similar fate. The seizure of this deluded young man and his papers has completely developed the plans of the traitors in South America, as in all the other provinces of Spain and put government into possession of a list of all their names, their emissaries, their places of residence, to what port or city bound. The Carte Blanche found in his possession, signed by Joseph, as well as blank commissions, were burnt under the gallows while he was suspended there, by the public hangman.

It is said that he had authority to name and commission all officers in New Spain, under a brigadier general, and had with him commissions for the new Vice-Roy and chiefs of the kingdom.

A schooner is now getting ready and will be off in about two hours for Vera Cruz, with a list of the names of the emissaries already in that kingdom, and the names of all those implicated by the confessions or papers of this unfortunate young man—and I hope sincerely that measures will be there taken in time to avert and secure them, before that valuable and beautiful country is deluged in blood by their nefarious conduct.

His papers were well secured in trunks, made in France or Spain, for the express purpose, without a false bottom or having the appearance of being thicker than usual but by boring were found, and the trunks then split up.

I am, Sir, &c.

The following is a copy of the proclamation, alluded to in the foregoing letter.

Don Salvador Joseph de Muroly Salazar, Marquis de Someruelos, Lieutenant General of the Royal Armies, President of the Royal Audience of Puerto Principe, Captain General of the Island of Cuba and of the Provinces of the Two Floridas, and Political and Military Governor of Havanna, &c.

Maketh known to all the inhabitants of this city—That having substantiated and determined the case of Manuel Rodriguez Alemanya Pena, with the approbation of the Judge Advocate Don Joseph Antonio Ramos, and two other learned doctors of law of my full confidence, he has been sentenced to suffer the highest punishment for having been guilty of high treason and as an emissary of Joseph Bonaparte; who came instructed to dissolve the ties which unite us with the legitimate government of Spain, and to promote discord and division in your peaceable countries with a view that the Americans, forgetting that loyalty which has always characterized them, should acknowledge and obey the intruded king.

The Judges have designed the day and hour on which this ill advised young man is to expiate his crime and temerity on the gallows, which will be on to-morrow morning (Monday) at 7 o'clock.

But, Citizens of Havanna, justice is not incompatible with compassion and urbanity.—Those virtues shine pre-eminently in your hearts. Let not your anxious desires for expiation confound nor suffocate your sentiments of humanity. Abhor the crime, but pity the criminal. This maxim should be strictly observed on the day of execution. A peaceable and well disposed concourse will tend to make the act more pathetic and terrible. Confusion, unnecessary and improper noise, illiberal epithets or uncivil actions, are unbecoming worthy citizens, and must always produce melancholy consequences. On the contrary, decency and good order are the inseparable companions of noble souls.

With abundant reason I flatter myself from the docility of your dispositions, that during the passage of the criminal from the jail to the gallows, and in the act of his execution, you will afford ample proofs of your Civil and Christian moderation, by compassionating the unfortunate fate of one, who could forget the sacred principles of Patriotism, to unite himself with the enemies of his country. And if notwithstanding my expectations and my precepts, any one should contravene, he will be immediately apprehended and punished in proportion to his excess and to the quality and circumstances of his person. And that this may be publicly known, and in case of contravention, none shall plead ignorance, it is ordered to proclaim it through the city by beat of drum, and that hand-bills duly authenticated by the Nota-

ry of the Government, be put up in the usual places.

Havanna, July 29th, 1810.

EL MARQUIS DE SOMERUELOS,

By order of His Excellency,

MIGUEL MENDEZ.

WHAT "INFLUENCE" IS THIS?

A New-York Jeffersonian paper calls the conquest of a part of Spain by the treachery and bayonets of the tyrant of France, "reconciling the kingdom to a new order of things!" By the same pen the generous assistance Great Britain has afforded the Sons of Liberty of Spain, in their gallant efforts to defend their rights and property, their children and fire-sides, and the Altars of their God, is denominated a "perpetual interference" because, under Heaven, it has retarded the footsteps of the bloodhounds of France in their race of conquest. The same pen announces with exultation the prospect, "that the influence of the English in the peninsula is drawing to a close;" the result of which will be the subjugation of the whole kingdom to the domination of Bonaparte; and this event is also hailed as the "Restorer of Peace [the deathlike peace of despotism] to that agonized [by whom has it been agonized?] portion of the world." In addition to this the Spanish Patriots, merely for their opposition to the French encroachments, are branded as "desperadoes," actuated by "the hope of plunder; Yes, Americans, these gallant Spaniards—whose cause is so strongly assimilated to yours in 1776—who have defended their country for more than two years; and who have resisted the Power of France longer than any other country in Europe—are branded as you were in 1776, "rebels," "desperadoes," and "plunderers!" and this too by men who call themselves free Americans. But this is not all—the myrmidons of French power who are invading their country, and carrying death and carnage into every province, are denominated "vigorous assailants," and their success predicted with exultation. If this be not the effect of "French influence," let them tell us from what influence it doth proceed? The Mamelukes who lick the dust from the feet of the Usurper in Paris, can only utter similar sentiments, and practice similar servility. Can the people want any other proof of the existence of French influence in the U. States, than can be found in the exultations in and predictions of the defeat of the Spanish Patriots, and rejoicing at the success of the lawless invaders of Spain and Portugal? We trust not.—Cent.

From the Boston Palladium.

Messrs. Editors,

Hypocrisy rarely goes unpunished. It is a remarkable fact that, notwithstanding all the boasted impartiality towards G. Britain and France, the recent losses of our merchants, under the late infamous decree of Bonaparte, have arisen from partiality of our government to France; and what renders this truth the more striking is that the very power we meant to favor is the one from whom we derive the injury.

The non-intercourse law affected to exclude all trade with G. Britain and France and their dependencies. I say affected, because, in reality, no such thing was probably intended. So far as regarded the dominions of G. Britain exclusion was total, but as respected France it was not, nor did any fair and discerning mind view it so at the time that foolish act passed. It allowed our vessels to go to Holland, to ports in the Bay of Biscay, and to Naples: three portions of Europe as much under the influence of Bonaparte as the port of Havre de Grace, and over which the great emperor had placed his three brothers, Louis, Joseph and Murat. What influence he had over those parts of Europe the event most abundantly shows. About one hundred and fifty vessels, with their cargoes, have been seized and confiscated, and almost the whole of them at those places. Supposing each of those adventures to have cost thirty thousand dollars and to have sold for three fold, which will not, perhaps, be deemed an extravagant estimate, then the loss to our country, from this diabolical decree, and owing to the shameful partiality of our government, in leaving open French dependencies, knowing them to be such, will amount without the vessels, to nine millions of dollars: a far greater sum than has been seized upon at any