



Repository of Genius.

TO TASTE.

DAUGHTER of elegance and simple grace, With whom enamour'd Genius loves to rove, Contemplative, the scientific maze Of Attic learning's solitary grove!

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

GENERAL MIRANDA.

IN giving the following communication to the world, we do it with that caution which the subject of it is calculated to inspire. That subject is without doubt uncommonly interesting. The sailing of the Leander and her consort from New-York, the manner in which they were equipped, and the suspicions which were attached to them while they were in port, were evidently calculated to raise every thing about them, more especially the point of destination and the end of so singular an equipment into objects of uncommon curiosity. Party spirit too stepped in to aid the natural impulse of the occasion. The federalists did not fail to seize upon the mysterious cover under which the plan was enveloped, and to create the most extraordinary charges against the administration. The project of Gen. Miranda, according to their representation, was either directly promoted or indirectly connived at. The federalists therefore enquired, to collect the materials for an attack: the republicans, to defend the administration. Under such circumstances, the expedition of General Miranda has become an object of considerable interest. Fables have been formed; conjectures have been offered; almost every one has been anxious to explain, but none has yet positively ascertained, the objects of this mysterious enterprise. The field of conjecture is yet open to the imagination and the race of monstrous absurdities is not yet ended. We shall not therefore presume to vouch for the veracity of a single fact contained in the following communication. The author indeed professes to be confident in the truth of his theory. He is an acquaintance of Miranda; conversant with his plans, and convinced of their reality. But this is an affair between Gen. Miranda and himself. Far be it from our wish to make it a subject of contention between us and the public. We give it to them as they give it to us. We are the organs but not authors of the communications. It is put to the press under the persuasion, that if it will not enlighten by its accuracy, it may amuse by the novelty of the fable; and that whether it contains fictions or facts, it may serve to invite the attention of the public to the future development of the plot:

COMMUNICATION.

That Miranda has embarked at New-York—that he has actually gone from thence, with the fixed design to emancipate his country from the yoke of Spain, is a notorious fact. Standing alone, this might be deemed a project of a mere adventurer; but when we read the following short history of this man, the mind must expand with wonder, that it has been delayed so long. So long since as 1767, there were five delegates from five provinces of S. America, at Madrid sent to complain of intolerable grievances; they were denied redress through haughtiness and pride, just as our agents were, before our disputes were ended by war. One of these delegates, was intrusted to make certain propositions to G. Britain. Lord Chatham (who had

formed a whole administration, under a most solemn promise from the King, that he should have his unbounded confidence, during life) embraced those propositions, gave the agent £1000 yearly, till the design should be carried into effect: he was paid this pension no longer than the life-time of that administration, and the agent was, along with the other four, sacrificed to the resentment of Spain.

In 1786, Miranda, who was born in Caracas, a city about 12 miles south of Liguira, made his appearance in this country; he is well known by many of our most eminent citizens; possessed a strong mind; and since his travels through all Europe, he may be supposed equal to any man, now living, as to intelligence and capacity, for the most important affairs.

His object has been nothing short, and nothing else, than to deliver his country from an intolerable and humiliating bondage. When England fitted out a large fleet to support their claims at Nootka Sound, Miranda was engaged to more than aid them in those claims, but the expedition was abandoned; the cause may be conjectured, but time only will delope the facts.

Disappointed, till the revolution had created war between France and Spain, he went to Paris; became a General in their armies. That fatal defeat of the left wing under Dumourier, which he commanded, caused suspicions, that having come over from Eng and, they might have been betrayed, but all the Americans in Paris (among whom Tom Paine and Joel Barlow) gave it as their decided opinion, that his principles were strictly pure, honorable and strictly republican; he proved also, that he protested against the mode of attack the night before the action and that he refused Dumourier's pressing solicitations to emigrate along with him. He would have embarked with an army from France, for the directory had it in view, but no opportunity offered till peace was concluded. Intent on the same object, he once more offered his services to England; they were once more accepted, and he was once more deceived. When just upon embarking, he found, contrary to every previous and solemn compact, that Mr. Pitt meant conquest and not emancipation of his country. He renounced all participation in the expedition, rent his commission in pieces, reproached him with perfidy, duplicity, and lies, and embarked for America.

It is unnecessary to say more than that the doors will be opened in three provinces, now organized; they know our example and will follow it: no conditions remain with the government of England; all nations will be invited to their ports, none so much desired as our own; offers of fraternity and friendship will, if we are willing, unite this whole continent like the solar system, by one common attraction; every part holding its due proportion in its own orbit giving beauty and harmony to the whole.

The above sketch is to satisfy public curiosity; it is enough for the moment; as to the means, the place of destination, or parts to be first opened, it would be improper to say any thing farther; the plan is well digested; miracles do not come every day and unless a miracle does come, Miranda must succeed.

A FEW STRICTURES.

The preceding communication is without doubt extremely complimentary to the design and character of Gen. Miranda. But it is incumbent upon us to remark, that there are other representations of a very different nature.

With respect to the design itself, some have ventured to suggest that the object of Gen. Miranda is not to liberate his country; but to commit a predatory excursion on the coast of S. America, to sack the wealthy city of Buenos Ayres, or to seize upon the treasury of Peru, while others have dispatched him on a commercial speculation, neither so honorable as the emancipation of his country, nor so lucrative as the seizure of its riches.

If the design of Miranda be really what it professes to be, some

have gone on to doubt his qualifications for the accomplishment of his projects. They have called him, an arrant adventurer; they have pointed him out, in the history of the wars of France as a disgraced and cashiered General; they have illustrated the incapacity of his soul by the frequent miscarriage of his plans. Few like our communicator have ventured to extol his "intelligence and capacity for the most important affairs."

But let his plans be ever so noble, or his qualifications ever so great; many have doubted the probability of his succeeding in the emancipation of his country. We know not, and our communicator carefully avoids to touch upon the point of his destination: whether it be Mexico, New Grenada, Peru, or Buenos Ayres. But in all those countries, difficulties would surround him. The people are the devoted slaves of the Clergy in all the Spanish colonies, and the Clergy are bound by their rich benefices to the present order of things. Their political prejudices are not less obstinate than their ecclesiastical: they have learned to be contented. The very monopoly of commerce which prevails among them, has the effect of shutting out another of the great means of improvement. Few strangers visit their country, and the miserable Acastee of Mexico and Peru has no opportunity to profit by the discoveries of more civilized countries.

But why may not the Spanish colonies become as independent as the British colonies formerly did? We may reply, that their condition is different in two important circumstances. Not only was our people freer than the Spanish colonies are at present; as much freer at least in proportion as the British government is more enlightened than the Spanish; but the government which was established in our colonies was much better calculated to give success to a revolution. The legislatures, which were previously established in our colonies, survived the downfall of the British sovereignty, and were admirably fitted for collecting together the force of the nation. But in the Spanish colonies, no such organization exists for concentration of the public force. The whole business of legislation is in the hands of Viceroys or other subordinate agents of the crown. Electors and elected, constituents and representatives are names without a meaning in the Spanish vocabulary.

These circumstances are strongly calculated to produce doubts of the success of Miranda's professed enterprise, under the present state of the Spanish colonies. On this subject, however, we are bound to speak with all the humility of doubt. We know but little of the present state of the Spanish colonies; the strength of the government, the character of its present officers, or its military resources. We know still less of Miranda's means or the resources of his adherents. If "three provinces" are already "organized," if Miranda is assisted, it not by the Treasury, at least as it is said by the Admiralty of England; if three millions of dollars have been furnished by his American associates or English speculators: if success should crown his first exertions and the treasury of the King of Spain should fall into his hands; if the military force of that country be feeble or its discipline imperfect; it is certainly probable that Miranda may become the Washington of his country. What we mean to assert is, that even if a "miracle does" not "come," still Miranda may not "succeed."

From the National Intelligencer.

The Philadelphia Gazette of the 19th inst. contains the following queries in the shape of a communication:

"Serious questions to Mr. Madison.

"Did Miranda go to Washington about the middle of December last?

"Had he two long interviews with you?

"Did he not present you the plan of an expedition against the province of Caracas?

"Did he support the probability of success by the exhibition of va-

rious letters, either real or spurious, supposed to be written to him from his friends in that country?

"Did he show you a plan of the government he intended to establish in those provinces?

"Did the President peruse the said plan of government, keep the manuscript twenty-four hours in his possession, and return it afterwards to Miranda, approving it in general terms?

"Did you observe to Miranda that Congress did not appear inclined to go to war with Spain?

"Did Miranda reply that if government was not so disposed, he could carry the plan into execution himself, if they did not interfere about his preparations?

"Did you answer him, after a long pause, that government would shut their eyes, provided he would act with the necessary caution so as not to commit them?

"Did Miranda return immediately to N. York, to make his preparations and act in consequence?

"Is it possible, is it credible that if Miranda had not met from you a kind of indirect encouragement, he would immediately on his return from Washington, have proceeded to expenses that a little vigilance alone would have rendered useless?

"Is it credible, that, without that indirect support, two officers of the federal government, at the port of New-York, could have engaged in such a nefarious proceeding?

"Is it credible, that one of them would have permitted his eldest son to attend General Miranda in this predatory expedition, in capacity of his aid?

"Is it true, that the Leander, in which this young man embarked, had on board many muskets, rifles, pikes, field pieces, howitzers, ammunition of all kinds, regimentals, two printing presses, with ten or twelve journeymen printers?

"Is it true, that this vessel remained in port a fortnight after clearing out at the custom house, to embark recruits, and that the objects of her delay were generally known at New-York?

"Is it to be supposed, that if the administration had even not had any previous information of the scheme, they could be ignorant of these transactions, known to every body else?—Even admitting for supposition sake, that they had not a previous knowledge, would not their supposed ignorance be a glaring proof of the most criminal neglect?

"Has not the honor and neutrality of our country been committed in the most scandalous manner by an hostile armament fitted out in our ports under the eyes of public officers, consisting of American ships under the American flag, with American officers, American crews, American volunteers, American arms, and many other American implements of war, with the object of attacking the colonies of a nation with whom we are at peace?

"Are not all these circumstances together, sufficiently weighty to influence the Spanish commanders, if Miranda's attempt takes place, to lay an embargo on all American property within their jurisdiction?

"Will not the innocent merchant of the United States be exposed to the most ruinous and disastrous consequences if an event of this nature should take place?

"And should they not consider either a criminal connivance or a not less culpable neglect on the part of those through whose authority such scandalous proceedings could have been checked and prevented as the true causes of their misfortunes?

"These questions are made by every body, and we must confess that daily circumstances occur which in our opinion render a satisfactory answer more and more difficult. We submit them to the public, as immediately interested in the clearing up of a mystery which appears to hang over this affair, and which seriously threatens the interest of our fellow citizens."

The first impression made on the reader by a perusal of these questions is, that they are the offspring of some man, who hacked by in the vices of European governments has undertaken, through ignorance

or malevolence, to ascribe to the administration of our system the like atrocities with those committed by transatlantic administrations. In short, that they are the production of some foreigner, who from causes easily assignable by every man conversant with some recent occurrences, or from those of an inexplicable nature, is thus infamously employed in despoiling one of the purest characters in the nation of his fair fame, and aiming a deadly blow at the character of the whole government. The charges ascribed to the President and Mr. Madison cannot have emanated from an American heart or an American head. They are too absurd and too malignant to be cherished by any one whose interests are embarked in our common destiny. How they received admission into an American print, unless it was to expose hereafter the disgraceful motives from which they sprung, is not easily to be accounted for.

To enter into a serious refutation of such charges, preferred under the mask of an anonymous signature, were worse than useless. It were to imagine it possible that a part of the American people were made of such materials as to be the dupes of such calumnies. If they were composed of such materials, it would be of little consequence what opinions they entertained. For their esteem could confer no honor, and their censure be no disgrace.

It may not, however, be amiss to notice one source of reprehension, which goes on the ground that the government must have been apprised of the expedition of Miranda, before it took place. It is alleged that every body knew it, and, of consequence, that the administration could not have been ignorant of it. If this is a fact, how comes it that the Spanish Minister knew nothing of it? If he had been apprised of it, he surely would not have been silent. How comes it that the Spanish consul was ignorant of it? How comes it that the agents of France were ignorant of it? And how comes it that it was unknown to the merchants of N. York, that very class of men whose interests are said to be so compromised by it, and who, if they had known it, would not have been backward in using decisive means to defeat it? How comes it that it remained unnoticed in all the newspapers?

The facts, as we have had them represented to us, are these:

The Leander was stationed at a considerable distance from the city of New-York.

The supplies with which she was furnished were sent from time to time, by lighters, in detail.

And Miranda, all this time, was absent from the city.

That he had his confidants is almost certain; but it is equally certain that they did not betray the trust reposed in them.

Under these circumstances, it may well comport with a foreigner the subject of a government, whose jealous eye is fixed upon the actions of all its subjects, to infer that our government manifests a like vigilance, and exercises a like restraint over the actions of its citizens; but we know better; we know that the government moves in that sphere, and in that only, which the constitution prescribes; and that even in this limited sphere its predominant motive is confidence and not distrust.

Marquis de Yrujo.

For Sale, THAT VERY VALUABLE TRACT OF LAND,

IN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, Which was granted by the State of North-Carolina to Gen. Jethro Sumner in consideration of his military services. It contains 10,000 Acres, or thereabout, free from dispute of any kind; embraces the head waters of Big Harpeth, Mill Creek, Arroyo, Jon's Creek and Stuart's Creek, and is fully equal, if not superior in fertility, to any other tract of equal extent within the Military Boundaries. Land conveniently situated in this State, or Property of almost any other kind, will be received in Payment. One-third of the value is paid down in Cash, a convenient Credit will be given for the remainder, the purchaser giving Bond bearing interest from the date, payable annually with approved Security. Persons disposed to purchase, may learn the Price, and be more particularly informed of the conditions, by applying to Thomas Blount, at this place, or to White Blount or John Strother, at or near Nashville. Thomas E. Summers.