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*Ours are the plans of fair & delightful peace,
Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers.*

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EXAMINATION Of Commodore Thomas Truxton, CONTINUED.

Mr. HAY—Did these conversations take place after the declaration that you were no longer in the service of the United States? A. The whole of them. Col. Carrington, one of the Jury—Did they take place in July? A. Yes; I observed to him there would be no war, tho' I thought there was great cause for it. Mr. Hay—Had you expressed your dissatisfaction at this procedure? A. Yes; frequently? Q. I believe you made some publication on the subject? A. I did. Q. Your first conversations were about building bridges, settling lands, &c. A. Yes; When Col. B. first returned from the westward. Mr. M'Rae—He did not express to you his designs respecting the Ouachita land, until he had discovered your aversion to the Mexican project? A. He had not spoken particularly about the Ouachita land; but previously about speculations in the western lands generally. Mr. Wirt—Did he say at the latter end of July, that he was concluding a bargain for the Ouachita land? A. I think so. Mr. Hay—When he proposed to make you an admiral, did not the thought strike you, how he was to accomplish this? Mr. Burr denied that Commodore Truxton had said that he had promised to make him an admiral. Commodore Truxton—Mr. Burr told me he wished to make or see me one, I do not particularly recollect which was his expression. He said there was a formidable navy to be established. Mr. Hay. From what quarter of the world was the expedition by sea to go? A. I do not know. I did not ask him where it was to go from. Mr. Hay—Did you understand that you were to command the expedition by sea? A. Yes; but I declined and asked no questions particularly on the subject. Mr. Baker—I understand you to say, that the navy was to be erected after the government was to be established? A. Yes. Mr. M'Rae—Did he talk of a naval expedition against Havannah? A. I told Mr. Burr that Havannah could not be taken without a naval force. He said that could be obtained.

Cross-questioned.

Mr. Burr—Did I not say, I had never seen Lt. Jones? A. I do not recollect that; you spoke highly of him. Q. Do you not recollect I stated, if there was a war, that private enterprise and expeditions would be lawful? (Mr. Hay objected to the question, because seemingly intended for the Jury.) Q. Did I not talk several years ago about naval concerns? Did I not say, that you were duped by the Smiths and others; that they had no serious intention of serving you? Was not that the reason, that I wished to unweave you from the navy? A. You did state those facts. Q. Do you not find that I was right about your advance in the navy? A. I know that. Q. Did I not often talk to you about the settlement of lands? A. You did? Q. Were you not intimate? A. Yes. Q. Was there any reserve between us? A. None. Q. Did you ever hear me say anything about dismembering the union; or seizing on New Orleans? A. No. Q. Did I not often express the pleasure I should feel from doing service to the common interests of this country; and of preserving a strong connection with my countrymen? A. You did. Q. Did I not say that the perogues would be useful for the conveyance of agricultural products? A. Yes; and in war for transports. Q. Had you reason to doubt my intention to settle land? A. If there was no war, I took for granted that such was your intention. Q. If there was a war, & Mexico was invaded, and the government favored it, would you not have joined me? A. I would have got out of my bed at twelve at night to fight against England, France and Spain, if my country had called. Mr. M'Rae—Did he speak of any commercial speculations in which he was about to engage; of any commercial establishments he was about to form? A. He spoke of the settlement of the

Ouachita; and the bringing down of agricultural produce. Q. Were the remarks which he made on your relation to the navy, calculated to fill your bosom with resentment? A. My bosom was already full enough, but certainly Mr. Burr spoke in concert with my feelings. Mr. Hay—Could any expedition at sea be made as effectually against La Vera Cruz from any other port in the western world, as New-Orleans? A. Certainly not: It would be a very proper place, or from any place above the river. Larger vessels cannot get up to New-Orleans; and small craft must take the expedition down. Mr. Parker, one of the Jury—Did you understand for what purpose the two couriers were sent by Col. Burr to Gen. Wilkinson? A. I understood that there was an understanding between them about the Mexican project. Mr. Burr—are there not preparations now making in Philadelphia, in contemplation of a war with England? A. In New York there are. Mr. M'Rae—Are not the preparations going on openly? Has any commander been appointed independent of the government? A. No. Mr. Botts—Can ships be built secretly in the corner of a room? A. No.

Examination of Peter Taylor.

Mr. Hay—This witness will directly prove the connection of Burr with Blannerhassett, and his connection with the crime itself. Peter Taylor—The first information I had upon this subject was from Mrs. Blannerhassett, when Mr. Alston and Mr. Blannerhassett were gone down the river. The people got much alarmed concerning this business, and Mrs. Blannerhassett sent me to Lexington after Mr. Blannerhassett with a letter to prevent Col. Burr from coming back with him to the island. I went to Chillicothe but I did not find Mr. Blannerhassett there, and I went on to Cincinnati. I was directed to call at Cincinnati, at Mr. John Smith's, where I would find Mr. Blannerhassett: I called at Mr. Smith's store, where I saw his son—I asked if Mr. Smith was at home: he said yes; I said I wanted to see him—His son went and told him, a man wanted to see him. When Mr. Smith came out, I enquired for Col. Burr and Blannerhassett, to see whether he would give any account of them—He allowed I was much mistaken in the place. I said no; this was the right place: "Mr. John Smith, storekeeper, Cincinnati," says I. "Don't you recollect a young man who came here, some time ago for Col. Burr's top coat," (great coat,) I said, "Sir, I have lived with Mr. Blannerhassett for three years."—When Mr. Smith heard me talk so, he knew me, and took me up stairs to talk with me. He wanted to know the news our way, I told him the people had got alarmed. I told him every thing that was in agitation; that they talked about the settlement of lands. He seemed surprised. He asked what was said about Gen. Wilkinson. I said, I knew nothing about it. He asked me, if I would carry a letter from him to Blannerhassett: I told him I would carry any thing, so it was not too burdensome. So he set down and wrote a letter. He asked me whether I wished to drink, for he had chastised (charged) me not to go to any tavern lest the people should be sifting me with their questions. I drank, and then he showed me a tavern, and told me to go to get my horse fed by the hostler, but not to go into the house. I asked him where I should find Col. Burr and Blannerhassett—He said he expected they were at Lexington. I told him I supposed at Mr. Jourdan's. When I got to Lexington, it was Saturday about 1 o'clock. Mr. Jourdan happened to be in the street and knew me—He said, "Peter, your old master is not in town." But he said he expected him either that night or early in the morning. He asked me what news, and I told him. I asked him what I was to do with my horse. He said that he was to be put at the livery stable. He then went up stairs and he opened a door, and beckoned his hand, saying no-

thing. When I went in, there was Col. Burr. Col. Burr wanted to know, what was the news in our parts. I began to tell him, that my business was to prevent Col. Burr from going back to the island. (Q. Did you not know Col. Burr at that time? A. I did not. He had been on the island three times, but I did not see him.) When I told Colonel Burr that, says he, "I am the very man, involved in this piece of business; and you must tell me all you know." I said, "If you come up our way, the people will shoot you." I told him, it was my sincere opinion, that it was not safe for him to come up our way. I told him that I had heard several declare, that they had rather shoot him than let it alone. He seemed surprised that they should have such a thing in their head. I told him I could not tell why; and then told him about the land settlement, but the people said all that was a fib, and that he had something else in his head. Then Col. Burr asked me what letters I had—I said two, one was from Mrs. Blannerhassett and the other from John Smith of Cincinnati. He asked me, if he might open the letter from J. Smith, for he expected it was for him. I told him I supposed it made no difference between him and Blannerhassett, and he might. He broke the seal open, and showed me that there was a letter inclosed for him. He asked me about my wife, and after some talking, I asked him whether I was at liberty to go down stairs. I went down and I found the letter with him—I then went to Mr. Jourdan, and asked him whether I was to stay at his house or go to a tavern. He said I was to go to a tavern and he would pay for me. Mr. Jourdan wished me to go to Millersburg the next day, after the saddlebags left there by Mr. Blannerhassett. I went and left Mrs. Blannerhassett's letter with Mr. Jourdan, expecting Blannerhassett to get there before me. I got back on Monday by 10 o'clock; and there Blannerhassett was come, and preparing to go home. We started & got 10 miles that night. We stopt at a tavern; I went to see after the horses, and he went into the house. There were people in the house who wanted to know his name: he told them his name was Tom Jones. He came out and told me the people in the house had asked, and he had told them his name was Tom Jones, and I must mind and make no mistake but call him Jones too. So he passed by that name, till we got to the Mudlicks: he then told me he was known there, and I must call him by his own name. (Q. When did these things happen? A. All this was Oct. 1806, I believe.) He then began to enquire for young men who had rifles; good orderly men, who would be conformable to order and discipline. He allowed that Col. Burr and he, & a few of his friends had 300,000 acres of land, and they wanted young men to settle. He said he would give any young man, 100 acres of land, plenty of grog and victuals while going down the river, and three months provisions after they had got to the end: every young man was to carry his rifle and blanket. I agreed to go myself if I could carry my wife and family, but he said he must have further consultation upon that. When I got home, I began to think and asked what kind of seed we were to carry with us? He said we did not want any. (Mr. Wirt—Of what occupation were you on the island? A. gardener. Mr. Wirt—I put the question, that the jury might understand his last observation)—I urged that subject to him several times; at last he made a sudden pause and said, "Peter, we are going to take Mexico; one of the finest and richest places in the whole world." He said that Colonel Burr would be the King of Mexico, and Mrs. Alston was to be the Queen of Mexico, so soon as Col. Burr died—He said that Col. Burr had made fortunes for men in his time, but none for himself; but now he was going to make something for himself: he said that he had a great many friends in the Spanish territory; 2000 Roman Catholic Priests, were engaged and that their flocks would join, if once he could get to them; that the Spa-

niards, like the French, had got tired of their government and wanted to swap it. He told me that the English also were friends in this piece of business, and that he was the very man to go to England on this piece of business for Colonel Burr.—He asked me if I would not like to go? I said I should certainly like to see my friends there, I then asked what was to become of the men, who were going to settle the land he talked about? Were they to stop at the Red River, or go on? He said,—"You'll see how I'll fix them," when he got them far enough down the river. If they did not conform to order and discipline, he swore by God he'd stab them. I was astonished: I told him I was no soldier, and could not fight. He said it made no odds, he did not want me to fight; he wanted me to go & live with Mrs. Blannerhassett and the children, either at Natchez or some other place, while he went on the expedition. I talked to him again, and told him the people had got it into their heads, that he wanted to divide the union. He said Col. Burr and he could not do it themselves. All they could do, was to tell the people the consequence of. He said the people there paid upwards of 400,000 dollars a year, and never received any benefit from it. He allowed it would be a very fine thing, if they could keep that money among themselves, and make docks and build bridges and cut roads. About two weeks after I got home, he sent me to Dr. Bennett's of Mason county with a letter. He wanted to know if Dr. Bennett would not sell him the arms belonging to the Militia, if he could sell them and keep them out of danger; if he could he'd give him a draft upon his friend in Kentucky for payment, if he could not, he must send him word, where they were kept, & he would come & take them away in the night. I was not to give the letter to Dr. Bennett, until the Doctor promised to deliver it back for me to burn it; for that it contained high treason. I did burn it.—The Doctor said he was unacquainted with the plot and could not join in it.

Questioned by the Prosecution.

Mr. Hay—when did the boats leave the island? A. It was contemplated to sail on the 8th of December; but they did not come until the tenth (Sunday) & they sailed on the Wednesday night following. Ques. How many boats were there? A. Four. Q. How many men from the boats came on shore? A. About 30. Q. What did the men do, who did not belong to the boats? A. Some were packing meat, and some were packing other things. Mr. M'Rae—Who went off on Wednesday night? A. Mr. Blannerhassett and Mr. Tyler and the whole of the party. Q. At what time in the night? A. About one o'clock. Q. Did all that came down to the island go away? A. All but one, who was sick. Mr. Hay—Had they any guns? A. Some of them had: some of the people went a shooting—But I do not know how many there were. Mr. J. M. Sheppard (a Jurymen).—What kind of guns; rifles or muskets? A. I do not know. Q. Were there any pistols? A. I saw none but Blannerhassett's. Q. Was there any powder or lead? A. Both; I saw some powder in a long small barrel like a churn; but I was so employed, I could not notice particularly. Some of the men were engaged in running bullets; but I do not know how many. Mr. M'Rae—Why did they leave the island at that hour of the night? A. Because they were informed, that the Kanawha militia were coming down there. Q. Did you carry some boxes to the boats? I carried a half bushel of candles and some brandy; several boxes were cried, and a great many things of which I know nothing. Mr. Hay—Were you on the island, when they went off? A. Yes they held a counsel at the foot of a pier, to determine which was the best way to go. Mr. Blannerhassett said, if he went in a canoe, he would be an easy prey. I said to them, "best stick together;" and so they determined to stick together. They went off in great haste. Q. Why did they go in a body? A. I suppose for security.

Cross Questioned.

Mr. Wickham. You saw General Tupper and Mr. Woodbridge that night? A. Yes. Q. Was Col. Burr there? A. No. I did not see him. Q. Did you understand whether he was in that part of the country at that time? A. I understood not.

Wednesday, August 19.

Examination of Gen. John Morgan.

Sometime in August last, about this time twelve month, my father put a letter into my hands, signed Aaron Burr, in which he said that himself and his friend Col. Dupiester would dine with him the following day. My father requested me and my brother to go and meet Colonel Burr; which we did; about 7 miles distant. After a few words of general conversation, Colonel Burr observed to me, that the union could not possibly last, and that a separation of the states must ensue as a natural consequence in 4 or 5 years. Colonel Burr made many enquiries of me relative to the county of Washington; particularly the state of its militia; the discipline, arms, accoutrements, and the character of its officers. These conversations continued some time, besides other things which I cannot recollect, because I did not expect to be called upon in this way: after travelling some miles, we met one of my workmen, a likely young fellow: Colonel Burr said, he wished he had 10,000 such fellows. At my father's table, during dinner. Col. Burr again observed that the separation of the union must take place inevitably, in less than five years.—(Shall I give the answers that were made? Mr. Wirt. Perhaps, it may serve to connect your narrative better.) I recollect that it was my father who answered him, God forbid! Col. Burr in the course of conversation observed, that with 2 or 300 men, he could drive the President and Congress into the Potomac, and with 4 or 500 he could take possession of the city of New-York. After dinner, he walked with me to my brother's; and on our return, spoke of military men, and asked me if either of my brothers had a military turn. He said he should like to see my brother George at the head of a corps of Grenadiers; he was a fine, stout looking fellow. These circumstances induced me to speak to my father: I warned him to beware of Colonel Burr, told him that in the course of that night, Col. Burr would attempt to have an interview with him, and would make a requisition of my brother Tom, to go with him; and that I suspected something was going on. The next morning I rode with Colonel Burr to the town of Washington, about 9 or 10 miles. We had much conversation principally on military affairs; on the state of the militia; the necessity of attending to military discipline. He told me, that in New-York the militia were in good order, which was brought about by the influence and exertions of a single individual (Mr. Swartwout.) Colonel Burr asked me, if I thought I could raise a regiment in Washington county, or whether I could raise one with more ease in New-Jersey. (Mr. Wirt. You have lived in New-Jersey? A. Yes.) At Washington, we took a walk; Colonel Burr, Col. Dupiester and myself; down the town; and I pointed out to him the house where Mr. Bradford lived, who had been at the head of the Western Insurrection. He enquired about Mr. Bradford. (He was at Baton Rouge.) I told him, his son was in town, and Colonel Burr expressed a wish to see him. Colonel Burr mentioned to me, that he had met with several, (whose names I do not recollect) who had been engaged in the Western Insurrection; and particularly a Major in the North-Western Territory, who had told him, that if he was ever engaged in a similar business, he pledged himself it should not end without bloodshed. He said, that he was a fine fellow. It was on these circumstances, that I advised my father to apprise the President of the United States, that something was going forward.

Questioned by the Prosecution.

Mr. Hay. Which way did he go? A. I saw him leave Washington for Wheeling. Mr. Wirt. Were the