



Give us the plains of fair deligent peace, Unwieldy by party rage, to live like Brothers.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1808.

No. 462.

VOL. IX.

From the MONITOR. GENERAL WILKINSON.

We are to day enabled to continue our sketches of the General's vindication. Speaking of the charge of having tyrannically and indiscriminately denounced innocent persons to the government, he says, "How cruel and unwarrantable has been this imputation! How directly opposite to my real conduct; for Heaven can bear me witness, I treated individual character with so much delicacy, that I confined myself to facts merely, without the mention of Col. Burr's name, even in my second letter to the President, dated 13th Nov. 1805, in which I observe, "nothing less than an overt act will in my judgment warrant the official commitment of names, and none such has as yet been committed with in my knowledge;" and in my letter of the 9th Dec. from New-Orleans when surrounded by traitors and menaced from various quarters, is the following paragraph: "It is with inexpressible mortification and regret I discharge the painful duty of informing you, that among our countrymen in this city, I have observed characters hitherto distinguished for probity and patriotism, men of high talents and entire trust, honored by your confidence, and distinguished by marks of regard your, who, if not connected with the flagitious plan by active co-operation, have withheld from government interest, & timely intelligence of its gradual completion, or have dared openly to approve it! Shall I mention their names? I forbear until strong suspicion be confirmed into certainty; and let me not abandon the hope that their eyes may be open to the foulness of the attempt, and that they may be still retrieved to their country. Over such I shall keep a strict eye, and preventing their co-operation in mischief, I shall rejoice should this conduct reclaim their minds from error and secure their utility to the cause of the constitution."

"But it is with a proud satisfaction which swells my breast, that I contrast with this partial defection of our own countrymen the general temper of the great mass of the people, who are ardent in the defence of their city, and will I think in this instance, be found true to their God, to themselves; their country and its constitution."

"Such was the liberality, the charity and benevolence of my conduct, yet misrepresentation, gendered by the friends of Mr. Burr and my personal enemies, and put in circulation from one extreme of the Union to the other, have increased the number of my adversaries, and excited the prejudices of hundreds to whom I have never given cause of offence."

"Gentlemen, in this vindication of a soldier's honor, I have, I fear, worn out your patience, yet I must throw myself on your justice and benevolence to hear me, while I take a short view of an imputation, foreign it is true to the primary object of this enquiry, but no less interesting to my honor."

"It has been urged against me with peculiar rancor from the earliest dawn of my opposition to Col. Burr, that I was originally connected in his treasonable designs, and indeed since Mr. Clark came boldly out as his auxiliary, some of the bold have hesitated to ascribe to me the origin of the enterprise. On this subject I beg leave to offer the following brief remark—if I had been concerned with Col. Burr in his illicit projects, it is not credible that a man of his penetration, art, and knowledge of men and affairs, should have neglected to commit me, and to preserve the evidence of my conviction; and it is equally improbable did he possess the proof, that it should have been so long concealed, while I have been assailed by the mightiest efforts of my enemies, and an outrageous tempest of obloquy from all quarters."

"Having taken the ground of defence, I will not descend to notice the suggestions of the hostile, nor the insinuations of the treacherous, but shall hold myself in readiness to meet any specific attack, and will continue to defy my enemies."

"But as Mr. Clark, it seems, from his friend Mr. Cox, has expressed conviction of my connection with his Col. Burr, it is proper I should bestow a few particular observations on him and his agency in Burr's conspiracy."

"Although Col. Burr had after his arrival at St. Louis from N. Orleans, for the first time spoken to me, of some grand expedition contemplated by the government; it was from Mr. Clark I received the earliest intimation of Mr. Burr's designs against Mexico; cautiously and artfully conveyed to me in his letter of the 7th Sept. 1805, which is before the court. At the time of the receipt of this letter, so unsuspecting was I of any sinister plan being in agitation, that I gave Mr. Clark's letter to the Secretary of the Territory over which I presided, and desired him to transmit a copy of it to Col. Burr, which was accordingly done, and it was received by the Colonel. But subsequent events have convinced me, that Burr having informed Clark, under strong injunctions of silence, that I was concerned in his project, the latter, to ascertain the fact, had written this letter with a view to sound me. I beg leave to quote the letter in this place."

New Orleans, September 7, 1805.

DEAR SIR,

"Many absurd and wild reports are circulated here, and have reached the ears of the officers of the late Spanish government, respecting our Ex-Vice-President; you are spoken of as his right hand man, and even I am now supposed to be of consequence enough, to combine with Generals and Vice-Presidents. At any time but the present, I should amuse myself vastly at the folly and fears of those who are affected with these idle tales, but being on the point of setting off for Vera Cruz, on a large mercantile speculation, I feel curiously hurt at the rumors, and might in consequence of Spanish jealousy get into a hobble I could not easily get out of. Entre nous, I believe that Minor of Natchez has a great hand in this business, in order to make himself appear of importance; he is in the pay of Spain, and wishes to convince them that he is much their friend. This is, however, matter of suspicion on my part, but the channel through which the information reached me makes me suppose it. Power, whose head is always stuffed with plots, projects, conspiracies, &c. &c. &c. and who sees objects through a mill stone, is going to Natchez next week to unravel the whole of the extraordinary business, and then God have mercy on the culprits, for Spanish ire and indignation will be levelled at them."

"What in the name of Heaven could give rise to these extravagancies? Were I sufficiently intimate with Mr. Burr, and knew where to direct a line to him, I should take the liberty of writing to him. Perhaps finding Minor, in his way, was endeavoring to extract something from him, he has amused himself at the blockhead's expense, and then Minor has retailed the news to his employers. Enquire of Mr. Burr about this, and let me know at my return, which will be in three or four months. The tale is a horrid one when well told—Kentucky, Tennessee, the state of Ohio, the four Territories on the Mississippi and Ohio, with part of Georgia and Carolina, are to be bribed with the plunder of the Spanish countries, west of us, to separate from the Union. This is but a part of the business—Heavens! what wonderful doings there will be in these days. But how the devil I have been juggled into the conspiracy, or what assistance I can be of in it is to be incomprehensible. Vous qui savez tout, can explain the riddle. Amuse Mr. Burr with an account of it; but let no these great and important objects, these almost imperial doings, prevent you from attending to land business; recollect that you great men, if you intend to become Kings and Emperors, must have us little men for vassals, and if we have nothing to clothe ourselves with (for we can be clothed with the produce of our soil only; and if Congress take the lands for want of formalities, we

shall then have no produce) we shall make a very shabby figure at your courts. Think of this and practice those formalities that are necessary, that I may have from the produce of my Illinois lands, wherewith to buy a decent court dress when presented at your LEVEE. I hope you will not have KENTUCKIANS for your masters of ceremonies."

"I remain, dear sir, Very sincerely, your Humble servant & friend, DANIEL CLARK. Brig. Gen. Wilkinson."

"To this letter combine the following from Mr. Clark, bearing date the 14th of April 1806 which speaks of "the Land of Promise" of the suspicions and terrors he had encountered in going thither, and of communications he had exchanged with the inhabitants; and the allusion to some expedition of magnitude and of a secret nature is obvious. What else but an enterprise of the highest moment and most flattering prospect, could have induced a man of fortune, with his eyes open to the dangers, to have exposed himself to such dangers of his person, and of his life?"

New Orleans, 14th April, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

"I wrote to you in the month of August last year, inclosing plots and titles of sundry tracts of land I own in the Louisiana territory, and requesting you would be kind enough to have them registered and approved by the board of commissioners; I have not since then heard from you, and being uncertain whether the packet reached you, feel very uneasy on that account; be pleased to dissipate my fears by giving me some information on the subject. I shall remain here during the summer, and your letters by post will not fail to reach me. I have been twice since I last wrote to you in the LAND OF PROMISE, but what is more surprising I have got safe back from it, after having been represented to the Vice Roy, as a person dangerous to the Spanish government, and who had visited that country with no other view, than that of acquiring information of its strength, and how and where it might be assailed with the greatest probability of success. I knew all this before undertaken, but was FEEL HARD ENOUGH to attempt it. I have made some money, & acquired more knowledge of the country, its productions and resources and made those of our country better known to him than they were before. There is, you know, no harm in this interchange of useful information, and at a future period I shall communicate to you, all I have picked up during my stay there. Give me some news of what is passing in your country & how you are situated in it. Yours, most sincerely, DANIEL CLARK. James Wilkinson, Esq."

"Garbled extracts from the preceding letters were last winter published in the Philadelphia Gazette. The equivocal parts were omitted. Why Mr. Clark (for the copy must have been furnished by him) should at that period have resorted with his own private correspondence to the press, can be explained on no ground, than that, conscious of the weak part of his character, he thought it advisable to attempt to forestall public opinion, by being the first to broach the subject. The concealment of part of the contents of those letters argues strongly against him; but it was a necessary precaution—for, had he given the whole of them, no person could have mistook the purpose for which they were written, to wit; to sound the General as to a connection with Col. Burr. But it is not upon these letters, nor yet upon the veritable testimony of Lieut. Murray, already published, that Mr. Clark was implicated by the General. The following extracts from the deposition of Mr. Graham (present chief clerk in the department of state) corroborate and confirm the charge of connivance with Burr. This deposition was submitted to the Court of Enquiry: "Mr. Graham declares that Mr. Clark sought an interview with him, and voluntarily furnished him some

time in the winter of 1805-6, estimates of the military force of the Mexican country, both regulars & militia, particularly of the garrisoned towns between Vera Cruz and Mexico, and also of the naval force of Vera Cruz, and gave him the opinion, that the country might be invaded with every prospect of success. I enquired of him (says Mr. Graham) whether, if the U. S. was would undertake the invasion, he would bear a part? Mr. Clark evinced an unwillingness to have any thing to do with an expedition carried on by the government, but expressed himself willing to join in such an enterprise undertaken and carried on by individuals. He said all they would ask would be the permissions, not the aid of government; that they would cut off all connection with the country they left, and establish a new empire of their own. He said hypothetically, addressing himself to me, now suppose such a person as yourself was to join in the Expedition, you might be made a Duke; to which I replied that my republican notions would not allow me to aspire to any such distinction, and that I would have nothing to do with any expedition not conducted by the government. Here the conversation on that subject ended, & Clark [mark the art of Mr. Clark to acquire information and get conceal his own knowledge] asked me several questions about what Burr was doing."

"In the various facts stated by Lieut. Murray, Mr. Graham, Mr. Alston, Lieut. Spence, Mr. Latrobe, and even Mr. Cox, and from his letters to me of the 7th Sept. 1805, and the 14th April, 1806, the secret connection, connivance, and co-operation of Mr. Clark and of Mr. Burr, are too apparent to be denied or resisted; and as it was willed by Heaven that I should be the author of their disappointment and disgrace, it is very natural that they should turn against me with the bitterest resentment. I have checked the career of dissolute ambition, and have blasted the golden prospects of its votaries; I have exposed myself to the assaults of a host of enemies, & make claim to the good opinion of my fellow-citizens. The cause in which I embarked was peculiarly their own, and by a hazardous interference I preserved their honor, their peace, and perhaps their unity. I have stepped in between treason and the union, and have ventured my life and fortune to preserve Louisiana; and shall my fame be filched from me by surmises and suspicions? Shall the daring machinations, and matchless contrivances of ruffians prevail against my innocence? Will the American people—will my countrymen, view the unequal conflict with indifference? Will they torpidly look on, behold my struggle against the bloodhounds of conspiracy, and verify the remark, that Republics are ungrateful? Am I to fall, and treason triumph on my ruin? If so, I know how to meet my fate, and having sacrificed myself to my country, I will enter my claim upon posterity, for that protection and that justice which my co-temporaries deny me; and oh! may my example fail to damp the ardor of those whose duty it may become, in an hour of similar perils, to devote themselves to the public weal."

"Enough, we presume, has already appeared to fix upon Mr. Clark, beyond the possibility of refutation, the stigma of being secretly an associator with Burr. But this by no means, constituted the whole of the odium which the General's vindication has thrown upon him. The case of the Grand Sachem, presents him in a most dark and terrible aspect; and combined with a circumstance where Mr. Clark appears to have forged the name of Power in a letter to the General (the hand writing being compared and recognized by several respectable gentlemen) demonstrates that Mr. Clark is capable of resort-

ing to the most detestable practices to serve his own purposes or to ruin an enemy. It is much to be regretted that the whole vindication cannot at this moment appear before the public. It is of great length, sufficient to make a handsome volume, and is very specific in the investigation of every point of accusation. I shall not fall lay before my readers such part of it as I can at any time procure; for I conceive it to be a solemn obligation on every journalist to give currency to the facts it contains, in order that the people may understand who are their real enemies; and may treat with merited contempt, scorn and indignation, a band of the most daring conspirators that ever insulted a free country. The following is the conclusion of the General's address: "Gentlemen, a few words more and I have done. I know you are not to be instructed in your duty, but I will beseech you to take to your breasts the importance of the decision you are about to make, as it may affect your own characters, the interests of our country, the rights of an individual, and the honor of your profession. If guilty of the foul charge alleged against me; if I have not more than done my duty, in the arduous instances of service which have fallen under your observation; let your award be exemplary, and may my punishment be correspondent! The divorce of my sword—strike me from the rolls of honor—banish me the list of fame—let my services be forgotten, and my crimes only be remembered. But gentlemen, should my innocence be apparent, and you discover that I am a victim of persecution, because I have cut the cords contrived to ensnare the peace and happiness of our country; then do justice to my accusers—rescue my character from the fangs of detraction—heal my wounded honor—confirm the confidence of my country—and let me live and die your Chief."

State of North Carolina, Wake County. Aaron Rogers, & Daniel Rogers, Petitioners for the division of a Tract of 600 Acres of land lying in Wake County of which Jacob Rogers acted as agent and possessor; &c. for the appropriation thereof to the petitioners as entitled to respectively. I appearing to the Court that Willie Rogers, Rebecca, James, John and Betsey Rogers are Infants, Drury Spain is appointed their Guardian to defend them in this case—it appearing also to the Court that Dread Rogers, Drury Spain and Sarah his wife, Berry Rogers, Michael Rogers and the said Willie, Rebecca, James, John and Betsey Rogers, reside in the State of Georgia, it is Ordered, That publication be made for six weeks successively, by advertisement at the Court house, and in the State Gazette, that unless the said Parties appear and shew cause at the next Court to be held for this County, the Prayer of the Petitioners will be granted. Wm. Hill, Clk.

Casso's Inn, Raleigh.

MRS. CASSO respectfully informs her Friends and the Public, that, during the absence of Mr. Casso in the western Country, she will continue to keep up the Inn as usual; and hopes, by her uninterrupted attention to Business, and to the comfortable accommodation of her Boarders, and such Travellers as may call upon her, to be favoured with the same share of public patronage which the House has heretofore experienced. May 18.

COMMITTED.

To the Jail of Franklin County, N. Carolina, on the 14th instant.

A Small NEGRO MAN, who calls himself Bill—says he was purchased in Pasquotank by a John Cowan, and carried with other Negroes, to Rockingham, where he was left with John M. Coy, from whom he escaped. Bill is about 40 years old, 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, has a stammering in his speech, is very black, has fed eyes, and a small scar on his forehead. The owner is requested to come to prove property, pay charges, &c. June 18. JORDAN THOMAS

Mr. Graham was at this time Secretary of the Territory of Orleans, and hence the necessity for this qualification.