

am convinced that the success of our plan will depend on the disposition of the court [of Spain].'

"Whether Wilkinson was really in earnest in carrying into execution the designs of the Spanish governor, may, by some, be regarded as a matter of conjecture; but that he was, nevertheless, using him for pecuniary gain, is clearly established by Miro's frequent dispatches to the home government, recommending the purchase of increased amounts of tobacco, in which it was known that Wilkinson was then dealing.

" 'There is no means,' he writes, 'more powerful to accomplish the principal object we have in view, in the memorial which had been laid before his majesty, than the promise that the government will take as much as six millions of their tobacco instead of the two millions which are now bought from them.'

"In a subsequent dispatch, after the arrival of several flat-boats owned by Wilkinson and under charge of Major Dunn, which the governor was assured cost seven thousand dollars in Kentucky, Miro says, that, from the beginning Wilkinson had informed him that he was not possessed of any pecuniary resources; that on the recommendation of the intendant he had obtained a loan of three thousand dollars from a gentleman in New Orleans, and, therefore, requested that his cargo should not be seized, as he had pledged the product of its sale to refund the sum, and to pay his crew, and the amount due on the tobacco, which had been purchased on credit. The balance was to enable him to support himself without embarrassment, and to contribute to preserve and increase influence in his own state. *'Although his candor,'* Miro continues, *'and the information which I have sought from many who know him well, seem to assure us that he is working in good earnest, yet I am aware it may be possible that his intention is to enrich himself at our expense, by inflating us with hopes and promises which he knows to be vain.* Nevertheless, I have determined to humor him on this occasion.'

"Dunn had left Kentucky, in charge of the boats and cargo, on the fifteenth of May, bearing with him a letter of introduction from Wilkinson. He informed the governor and the intendant that the major was an old military companion who had come to settle in the country during his absence. The reliance which he placed in his honor, his discretion, and his talents, had induced him, after sounding his disposition with proper caution, to choose him as a fit auxiliary in the execution of their political designs, which he had embraced with credulity. Dunn, he said, would, therefore, present himself in order to confer with them on those points which would require more examination, and to concert with them those measures which they might deem necessary to expedite *'our'* plan, and that, through him, he, Wilkinson, might be able to receive new instructions which they might deem expedient to send him. 'I have also