

chosen him,' he continues, 'to bring back the product of the present cargo of my boats.'

"For these reasons he wished to recommend him as one worthy of their entire confidence, and as a safe and sagacious man, who was properly acquainted with the political state of the American union, and with the circumstances of the western country.

"He further informs them that on the first day of January of the next year (1789), by mutual consent, the district of Kentucky would cease to be subject to the jurisdiction of Virginia. That while it was true it had been stipulated, as a necessary condition of their independence, that Kentucky should be acknowledged as an independent state by congress, and be admitted as such into the federal union, yet a convention had already been called to form the constitution of that district, and he felt persuaded that no action on the part of congress would ever induce the people to abandon the plan which they had adopted, although he had received recent intelligence that that body would, beyond a doubt, recognize Kentucky as a sovereign state.

"The convention was to meet in July; and in the meantime he would inquire into the prevailing opinions, and should thereby be able to ascertain the extent of the influence of the members elected. *When that was done, after having previously come to an understanding with two or three individuals capable of assisting him, he should disclose so much of their great scheme as might appear appropriate. He, as yet, had been communicative but to two individuals; he, however, had sounded many, and wherever he had made known to any of them Miro's answer to his memorial, it had given the greatest satisfaction. Colonel Alexander Leatt Bullitt and Harry Innis, the attorney-general, were the only persons to whom he had fully communicated; and should any mishap befall him before the accomplishment of their ends, he desired the Spanish authorities to address themselves to these gentlemen, whose political designs, he asserted, agreed with their own. An early organization of the state government was anticipated, at which time it was intended to appoint an agent to treat with Spain; and as for congress opposing any obstacle to the measure it was ridiculously absurd, for under the federal compact that body could neither furnish men nor money; and as to the new government, should it ever establish itself, it would have to encounter difficulties which would keep it weak for three or four years, before the expiration of which, he had good reason for believing, that himself and Miro would complete their negotiations, and would become too strong for any force that could be sent against them. * * * **

"Wilkinson had been actively engaged in sowing the seeds of dissension in Kentucky. George Muter, Harry Innis, John Brown, and Benjamin Sebastian, conspicuous and influential men, had been admitted to the secret, and