

cause, but that he allows himself to be entirely ruled by motives of the vilest self-interest, and, therefore, that he will not scruple on his return to destroy me.'

"That Morgan was prompted by the incentive with which he had been charged, Miro did not feel disposed to question. Men were only to be influenced in such an undertaking by the strongest considerations of private advantage. In fact, it was to that interest only he [Wilkinson] appealed, and by it alone he could hope for success. But, emanating from such a source, it was Satan reproving sin. Himself a soldier and officer of the Revolution, who had passed successfully through many a scene of doubtful conflict; who, at the sacrifice of his private fortune, and at the imminent peril of his life had aided in effecting the independence of that country he now secretly conspired against; who had received her honors, her confidence, and her gratitude—was not he himself now seeking for Spanish influence and Spanish gold [with which] to tear down the noble fabric he had helped to rear, and transfer to Spanish despotism those liberties for which so gallantly he had fought.' 'It is not necessary,' says Wilkinson to Gardoqui,<sup>1</sup> 'to suggest to a gentleman of your experience and knowledge that man throughout the world is governed by private interest, however variously modified it may be. Some men are avaricious, some are vain, some are ambitious. To detect the predominant passion—to lay hold, and to make the most of it—is the most profound secret of political science.'

"Wilkinson's object was too transparent not to be detected by the penetration of Miro. 'Some men are avaricious, some are vain, some ambitious,' Wilkinson, he knew, combined the whole. 'Hundreds,' says he in a subsequent letter,<sup>2</sup> 'have applied to me on this subject who are determined to follow my example; and I do not deceive myself, nor do I deceive you, sir, when I affirm that it is in my power to lead a large body of the most opulent and most respectable of my fellow-citizens whither I shall go myself at their head; and I flatter myself that, after the dangers I have run, and the sacrifices which I have made—after having put my honor and my life in your hands—you can have no doubt of my favorable disposition toward the interests of his Catholic majesty, so long as my poor services may be necessary.'

"'After having read these remarks you will be surprised at being informed that, lately, I have, jointly with several gentlemen of this country, applied to Don Diego Gardoqui for a concession of land, in order to form a settlement on the Yazoo. *The motive of this application is to provide a place of refuge for myself and my adherents, in case it should become necessary for us to retire from this country in order to avoid the resentment of congress.*'"

Contrary to the expectations and remonstrances of General Wilkinson, the

<sup>1</sup> January 1, 1789, Gayarre, vol. iii., p. 247.

<sup>2</sup> February 12, 1789, Gayarre, vol. iii., p. 233.