

These daring and perfidious acts of General James Wilkinson, and his "unparalleled success in the art of traitorous diplomacy," prepares one to recognize his purpose in publishing his "Memoirs" in 1816, in which, with consummate tact, he undertakes to absolve himself of all wrong-doing in his intercourse, transactions, and correspondence with Don Estevan Miro and Don Diego Gardoqui, saying :

"When I first descended the Mississippi, in 1787, the project of colonization, which occupied the mind of Mr. Gardoqui, was known to me, and I determined to employ this knowledge, either for my personal emolument or the interests of my fellow-citizens. Governor Miro, the intendant [Martino] Navarro, and our interpreters, were the only persons to whom my most interesting propositions were communicated. To effect my primary object, the opening of the navigation of the river, it was necessary not only to take the ground of safety to the province, but to show the important advantages which would be derived to the revenues of Spain from a commercial intercourse between New Orleans and the settlements on the Ohio. To these considerations, an extensive scheme of colonization was added, under a specific proposition, for the settlement of several thousand families in that district on the Mississippi, which is now [in 1816] called West Florida, or one to be laid out on the Arkansan and White rivers; lands were to be granted to the heads of families in proportion to their numbers and condition, and I was to be allowed from one to three hundred dollars *per* family on the same scale. * * * *

"There was another project, depending on the preceding, which was considered of more importance if it could be effected, in relation to the fortunes of the concerned; this was, that I should demand for my services, in promoting the plan of colonization, the privilege of furnishing a considerable annual supply of tobacco to the Mexican market, which would have secured immense fortunes to me and my friends. The idea of alienating Kentucky from the United States, while a prospect of national protection remained, would have been as absurd as the idea of reducing them [the people of Kentucky] to the vassalage of Spain. Such a proposition would have been so vain and chimerical that no man, whose interest it was to preserve consistency of character with the Spanish government, would have ventured to hazard it. Indeed, the monstrous extravagance of the thought is too ludicrous for grave consideration, and could never have originated with any person who understood the character, genius, and government of the people of the United States.

"Under these stipulations and impressions, I embarked at New Orleans on my return to the United States, in September, 1787, and after a variety of perils and hardships, reached my family in Kentucky, in February, 1788. I revisited New Orleans in 1789, to break up the copartnership formed for me by Messrs.