

believed Colonel Burr to be sincere in his concern to be elected a member of Congress, he answered: 'No doubt he would have been sincerely rejoiced to have been elected,' but he added, 'There seemed too much mystery in his conduct. I suspected him to have other objects in view, to which I could not penetrate. *These objects, I then believed were known to General Wilkinson.*'"

At Louisville, on the nineteenth of May, Colonel Burr wrote to General Wilkinson, saying: "It is with extreme regret that I leave the falls without seeing you. \* \* \* \* The letters which I had expected from you may now be addressed to Orleans. I hope to see you at St. Louis in the autumn."

"Sixteen miles below the mouth of the Cumberland was Fort Massac, a place of renown in the olden time, long one of the outposts of civilization. There he found General Wilkinson, on his way to his government, and spent four days with him. \* \* \* \* Wilkinson gave him letters of introduction to his friends in New Orleans, and to expedite his voyage, fitted him out 'an elegant barge, sails, colors, and the oars, with a sergeant and ten able, faithful hands.'"

On arriving at New Orleans, on the twenty-fifth of June, he presented to Daniel Clark, one of the principal merchants of that city, the following letter from General Wilkinson:

"Massac, June 9th, 1805.

"My Dear Sir:—This will be delivered to you by Colonel Burr, whose worth you know well how to estimate. If the persecutions of a great and honourable man can give title to generous attentions, he has claims to all your civilities and all your services. You cannot oblige me more than by such conduct; and I pledge my life to you, it will not be misapplied. *To him I refer you, for many things, improper to letter, and which he will not say to any other.* I shall be at St. Louis in two weeks, and if you were there, we could open a mine, a commercial one, at least. Let me hear from you. Farewell. Do well, and believe me always your friend.

"JA. WILKINSON.<sup>1</sup>

"DANIEL CLARK, ESQ."

"This epistle produced the effect desired. Burr became intimate with Clark, as with all the important persons of the place. He was received everywhere as *the great man*. Governor Claiborne (governor of Orleans Territory) gave him a grand dinner, which was attended by as distinguished a company as New Orleans could assemble. Banquet followed after banquet, *fête* succeeded *fête*, ball followed ball. \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup>The life and times of Aaron Burr. By James Parton, vol. ii., pp. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40. Memoirs of my own times. By General James Wilkinson, vol. ii., appendix, docs. lxxviii., lxxi.