

“ Burr staid three weeks in New Orleans. Wilkinson said in his letter of introduction that Burr would make communications to Clark which were ‘ *improper* to letter.’ What were they? Burr was not a person to waste three weeks in mere feasting and playing the great man. Wherever he was, whatever he was, he was *busy*. * * * *

“ Toward the close of July he bade farewell to his friends in New Orleans, promising to return to them ere long. To ascend those great rivers of the southwest was scarcely possible at that day. Daniel Clark furnished him with two horses, and a servant to bring them back, who attended him as far as Natchez. In the gay society of that place he lingered a week; then, taking a guide, plunged into the dreary wilderness that lay between Natchez and Nashville, a distance of four hundred and fifty miles. * * * * Tired and worn with this miserable journey, performed in the hottest season of the year, the traveler reached Nashville on the sixth of August. * * * * There he remained a week. * * * * A two weeks’ tour in Kentucky followed, during which, besides traversing another wilderness of a hundred and fifty miles, he visited Louisville, Frankfort, and Lexington.”

On the seventh of September, 1805, Daniel Clark, in New Orleans, wrote to General Wilkinson, saying :

“ *Many absurd and wild reports are circulated here, and have reached the ears of the officers of the late Spanish government, respecting our ex-vice-president. You are spoken of as his right hand man; and even I am now supposed to be of consequence enough to combine with generals and vice-presidents.* At any other time but the present I should amuse myself vastly at the folly and fears of those who are affected with these idle tales; but being on the point of setting off for Vera Cruz, on a large mercantile speculation, I feel cursedly hurt at the rumours, and might, in consequence of Spanish jealousy, get into a hobble I could not easily get out of. *Entre nous*, I believe that Minor, of Natchez, has a great part in this business, in order to make himself of importance—he is in the pay of Spain, and wishes to convince them he is much their friend. This is, however, a matter of suspicion on my part, but the channel through which the information reached me, makes me suppose it. * * * *

“ Were I sufficiently intimate with Mr. Burr, and knew where to direct a line to him, I should take the liberty of writing to him. Perhaps, finding Minor in his way, he was endeavouring to extract something from him; he has amused himself at the blockhead’s expense, and then Minor has retailed the news to his employers. Inquire of Mr. Burr about this, and let me know at my return, which will be in three or four months.

“ The tale is a horrid one, if well told. Kentucky, Tennessee, the state of Ohio, the four territories on the Mississippi and Ohio, with part of Georgia