

and Carolina, are to be bribed with the plunder of the Spanish countries west of us, to separate from the Union; this is but a part of the business. \* \* \* \* Recollect that you great men, if you intend to become kings and emperors, must have us little men for vassals."

About the middle of the month of September, Colonel Burr arrived at St. Louis, where he found General Wilkinson. While they were engaged in the discussion of matters that are unknown to the public, Colonel Burr's "altered and mysterious manner; his unexplained hints of a splendid and brilliant enterprise," as General Wilkinson would have the public believe, "excited" his "suspicions," and, as he further relates, although Colonel Burr "spoke of this enterprise as being countenanced by government, his unusual manner and unusual reserve, would not permit me to give entire confidence to this assurance; I feared that ambition and revenge were leading him from the path of his duty."

The contents of the letter which Colonel Burr wrote him, at Philadelphia, on the twelfth of December, establishes the fact that General Wilkinson was always the first and only person to whom Colonel Burr communicated the information, which directly concerned him and their interests. He wrote:

"About the last of October, our [United States] cabinet was seriously disposed for war with the Spaniards; but more recent accounts of the increasing and alarming aggressions and annoyance of the British, and some courteous words from the French have banished every such intention. In case of such warfare, Lee would have been commander-in-chief; truth, I assure you; he must, you know, come from Virginia. The utmost now intended [by the government] is that sort of marine piracy which we had with the French under the former administration.

"Burr passed a week at Washington, and has been here ten days. Reception as usual. He has discovered nothing which excites doubts of the confirmation of Wilkinson's appointment. Secretary of the navy apprehends no difficulty. Military establishment will not increase nor diminish.

"On a subject of a certain speculation it is not deemed material to write till the whole can be communicated. The circumstance referred to in a letter from Ohio remains in suspense; the auspices however are favorable, and it is believed that Wilkinson will give audience to a delegation composed of Adair and Dayton in February. Can 25 \* \* \* \* be had in your vicinity to move at some few hours' notification?"

"In this same month of December, Burr wrote his first letter to Blennerhassett. It was a very innocent communication, though the contrary has been asserted. It began with regrets that he had not had the pleasure of meeting Blennerhassett on the island, and inquired where and when they could come