

who, he thought, would hasten to his standard as soon as he should obtain a foothold on Spanish soil."¹

It is highly probable that Samuel Swartwout would not have served so willingly Colonel Burr as an emissary had he not been influenced to place himself at his command by the suggestions of General Wilkinson, who certainly contemplated, when he wrote the infamous letter of the thirteenth of May, to ensnare all the immediate friends and associates of Colonel Burr in his entangling toils. That this was the traitorous general's purpose is signally manifest in his misrepresentations of the conduct and communications of Samuel Swartwout at Natchitoches.

Returning again to the direct consequences of General Wilkinson's treacherous letter to Colonel Burr, it will be seen that Colonel Burr, without any suspicion of the general's duplicity, began at once to carry out the instructions contained in it.

He immediately wrote the following letter to Harman Blennerhassett:

"Philadelphia, July 24th, 1806.

"Dear Sir:—Owing to an absence of unexpected duration from this city, your letter of the 23d of May was not received until a few days ago. My daughter has gone on to Bedford. My engagements in this city not permitting me to attend her, I shall follow in a few days, and be at your house before the 20th of August. Let me find you at home, or not far off. I propose to pass two or three days with you. My daughter was charmed with your hospitable and friendly overture, and wished much to avail herself of it. This, however, will not be in her power till October, the period of my return from Kentucky, when it is probable she may.

"I omit, till a personal interview, a further answer to your obliging letter.

"Two young gentlemen of respectable connections and character, are on their way down the river, Mr. S. Swartwout, of New York, and Mr. P. Ogden, of New Jersey. I have desired that they would stop at your door, hand you this, and wait long enough to answer any inquiries you might please to make about cis-montane men or things. I pray that they may experience your wanted courtesy.

"Very respectfully, your friend and faithful servant,

"A. BURR."

"H. BLENNERHASSETT, ESQ.

¹The life and times of Aaron Burr. By James Parton, vol. ii., pp. 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 51, 52, 56, 61, 58, 59, 60. Memoirs of his own times. By General James Wilkinson, vol. ii., appendix, doc. xxxiii.; pp. 301, 302; appendix, docs. lxxxiv., lxxxiii.; pp. 311, 312. The Blennerhassett papers. By William H. Safford, pp. 119, 120, 121.