

At a certain point on their voyage down the Mississippi, Samuel Swartwout, by being misinformed respecting General Wilkinson's whereabouts, parted company with Peter V. Ogden, and "crossed the country in the expectation of finding" the General at St. Louis. Having proceeded by way of St. Vincennes to Kaskaskias, and being told there that General Wilkinson "had descended the great river, he purchased a skiff and followed him to Fort Adams," where he learned that the general "had gone forward to Natchitoches." There he found General Wilkinson, as described by Colonel Thomas H. Cushing :

"On or about the eighth of October, 1806, I was sitting at the dining-table, in my quarters at Natchitoches, with General Wilkinson, when a gentleman entered the room, and inquired for Colonel Cushing. I rose to receive him, and he presented to me the letter from General Dayton [introducing Peter V. Ogden, who had gone forward to New Orleans].

"The gentleman informed me that he was the Mr. Swartwout mentioned in the letter, and I presented him to General Wilkinson as the friend of General Dayton, and requested him to take a seat with us at the table, which he did. \* \* \* \* While he was in my quarters, I was called out on business, and was absent from five to ten minutes."

During that interval, Samuel Swartwout placed in the hands of General Wilkinson two communications in ciphers, one from Colonel Burr, the other from ex-Senator Dayton. That the general was the author of the ciphers is certainly declared by him in his observation: "As early as the year 1800, when Colonel Burr stood high in the confidence of his country, when his ambition appeared to be chastened by patriotism, and to seek only legitimate objects of gratification, we corresponded in cipher." Colonel Burr certainly disavored the use of them, as is related by General Wilkinson: "'Why,' says Colonel Burr in his last letter [to me, on the fifth of April, 1805] 'put such a tax on the pleasure of your correspondence?' speaking of the difficulty he had in deciphering it."

The communication delivered to General Wilkinson, which Colonel Burr put in cipher at Philadelphia on the twenty-ninth of July, 1806, reads as follows, if the translation made by the general be true:

"Yours, post-marked 13th of May, is received. I, Aaron Burr, have obtained funds, and have actually commenced the enterprise. Detachments from different points, and under different pretences, will rendezvous on Ohio, 1st November—everything internal and external favours views; protection of England is secured; T— is going to Jamaica to arrange with the admiral on that station; it will meet on the Mississippi—England—navy of the United States are ready to join, and final orders are given to my friends and followers; it