

is too suggestive of rhetorical exaggeration to be regarded as constructed by Colonel Burr.

The second communication in cipher, that of Ex-Senator Dayton to General Wilkinson, dated "July 24th, 1806," as translated by him, reads :

"Dear Sir :—It is now well ascertained that you are to be displaced next session. Jefferson will affect to yield reluctantly to the public sentiment, but yield he will ; prepare yourself therefore for it ; you know the rest.

"You are not a man to despair, or even despond, especially when such prospects offer in another quarter. Are you ready ? Are your numerous associates ready ? Wealth and glory, Louisiana and Mexico. I shall have time to receive a letter from you before I set out for Ohio. Address one to me here and another to me in Cincinnati. Receive and treat my nephew affectionately, as you would receive your friend.

" DAYTON."

"This letter of General Dayton," as General Wilkinson avers, "was written in a cipher projected by himself on the hieroglyphics used by Colonel Burr and myself, which he [Colonel Burr] furnished Dayton for the purpose.

"My conduct immediately on the receipt of these letters," as General Wilkinson ten years later explains, "will best expound the part I determined to take, and the world will bear me witness that I did not for a moment waver in the line of my duty. It was late in the night, after I received Burr's letter, before I had so far deciphered it as to form a judgment of its contents ; and on the very next morning I communicated to Colonel Cushing (my second in command) all I had learned on the subject."¹

The information elicited by General Wilkinson from the ciphers sent him by Colonel Burr, as deposed by Colonel Cushing, was communicated to him on the ninth of October.

"The next morning [after the arrival of Samuel Swartwout at the headquarters of General Wilkinson] I was walking," says Colonel Cushing, "on the gallery in front of my quarters, when General Wilkinson came up, and, taking me aside, informed me that he had something of a serious nature to communicate to me. *So much so, that, although it was necessary to hold it in strict reserve for the present, he begged me to bear it in mind, that I might be able to make a fair statement of it at any future period.*

"He then asked me if I knew, or had heard of an enterprise being on foot in the western states. I replied that I had heard nothing on the subject, and asked him what the enterprise was to which he alluded. He then said, 'Yes, my friend, a great number of individuals possessing wealth, popularity, and talents are, at this moment, associated for purposes inimical to the govern-

¹ Memoirs of my own times. By General James Wilkinson, vol. ii., pp. 316, 317, 318, 321.