

ported, and whether any immediate or collateral protection, internal or external, is expected.

“ Among other allurements proposed to me, I am informed you connive at the combination, and that our country will justify it, but when I examine my orders of the 6th of May, I am obliged to discredit it, it—these imputations.

“ But should this association be formed in opposition to the laws and in defiance of government, then I have no doubt that the revolt of this territory will be made an auxiliary step to the main design of attacking Mexico to give it a new master in the place of promised liberty.

“ Could the fact be ascertained to me, I believe I should hazard my discretion, make the best compromise I could with Salcedo, in my power, and throw myself with my little band into New Orleans, to be ready to defend that capital against usurpation and violence. It is true the works of the place have mouldered to ruin; yet I think they may by extraordinary exertions in a few weeks be rendered defensible against an undisciplined rabble acting in a bad cause. But, sir, with my instructions before me, and without evidence of the design, principle, or support of the corps of associates expected from the Ohio, I dare not turn my back on the Spaniards now in my front, and abandon this scene of disaffection to the certain evils, which, without some strong measure of prevention, may possibly accrue in New Orleans.

“ If it should be found necessary to the preservation of exterior engagements or internal security, or the support of the laws and government, to oppose the meditated movements from the Ohio, I would recommend the immediate adoption of the following measures, viz. :

“ 1st. The troops from the banks of the Missouri, from St. Vincents, Southwest Point, and Massac, to take post at the Iron Banks on the Mississippi, about fifteen miles below the mouth of the Ohio, with the artillery at those posts, and orders to prevent the passage of persons or property (down the river) except under such passports as you may think proper to prescribe. I prefer the Iron Banks, because the river at that point is confined to a narrow bed, and may be effectually commanded, and I would recommend Captain D. Bissel, now at Massac, for the command.

“ 2d. A squadron of sloops-of-war and gun-boats should be ordered to take possession of the mouth of the Mississippi within the bar to prevent the entrance of all armed vessels and transports, unless particularly licensed by government.

“ 3d. A competent regular force should be levied and organized to pursue the outlaws, to shut them up and compel them to surrender at discretion.

“ By the first step it would be proposed to cut off supplies of provisions and prevent the junction of auxiliaries from sources of insurrection. By the