

second, to destroy every hope and expectation founded on co-operation of maritime force; and the third speaks too plainly for itself to need explanation.

“Amidst the uncertainty and doubts which perplex me, I feel disposed to adopt the following conclusions: Should the conduct of the Spaniards in my front justify it, I shall take the precaution either to go myself or to send Colonel Cushing to New Orleans, with every man who may be safely detached from this point, in order to put the works of the forts St. Charles and St. Louis in the best possible state of defence, [which] time and things may enable me [in order to] to secure the cannon, arms, military stores, and other public property against any lawless attempt by whoever made.

“If the designs of the combination should be pointed against the government, our communication by mail will be cut off, and all doubtful characters travelling from this quarter towards the Atlantic will be stopt. I have therefore judged it expedient, to silence suspicion and to secure and accelerate the arrival of this dispatch to your hands, to cause the bearer, Licutenant Thomas A. Smith, a young officer of good promise and entire trust, ostensibly to resign his commission and quit the service. It is therefore necessary [that] you should instruct the Secretary of War to reject his resignation and continue him on the rolls; and I hope, sir, should he acquit himself with satisfactory discretion and promptitude on the journey he has undertaken, that you may give him some mark of your approbation, and send him back to me.

“Reposing, with entire confidence, in your justice, and your wisdom that no application will be made of this letter which the national interests do not exact, I hold myself ready to receive and execute your orders, when and where you may think proper to direct.

“And am, sir,

“Your faithful and obliged soldier and servant,

“J. A. WILKINSON.”

Two days after receiving General Wilkinson's dispatches, Thomas Jefferson, president of the United States of America, issued a proclamation, having the following preamble:

“Whereas, information has been received, that sundry persons, citizens of the United States, or residents within the same, are conspiring and confederating together, to begin and set on foot, provide and prepare the means for a military expedition or enterprise against the dominions of Spain; that for this purpose, they are fitting out and arming vessels, in the western waters of the United States, collecting provisions, arms, military stores, and other means; are deceiving and seducing honest and well-meaning citizens under various pretences, to engage in their criminal enterprises; are organizing, officering, and