

bling more than forty men, in two boats, from Beaver, fifty in Tyler's flotilla, and the boatmen of Blennerhassett. I believe, therefore, that the enterprise may be considered crushed; but we are not to relax in our attention until we hear what has passed Louisville. If everything, from that place upward, be successfully arrested, there is nothing from below to be feared. \* \* \* \*

"We considered Fort Adams as the place to make a stand, because it covered the mouth of the Red River. *You have preferred New Orleans on an apprehension of a fleet from the West Indies. Be assured there is not any foundation for such an expectation but the lying exaggeration of these traitors to impose on others, and swell their pretended means.*

*"The very man whom they reported to you as gone to Jamaica and to bring the fleet, has never been from home, and has regularly communicated to me everything which has passed between Burr and him.*

"France or Spain would not send a fleet to take Vera Cruz; and, though one of the expeditions, now near arriving from England, is probably for Vera Cruz, and perhaps already there, yet the state of things between us renders it impossible they should countenance an enterprise unauthorized by us."<sup>1</sup>

On January 26, 1807, President Jefferson sent a message to the senate and house of representatives of the United States, in which he made the following communication:

"I received from General Wilkinson, on the 23d inst., his affidavit charging Samuel Swartwout, Peter V. Ogden, and James Alexander with the crimes described in the affidavit, a copy of which is now communicated to both houses of congress.

"It was announced to me at the same time that Swartwout and Bollman, two of the persons apprehended by him, were arrived in this city, in custody of a military officer. I immediately delivered to the attorney of the United States, in this district, the evidence received against them, with instructions to lay the same before the judges, and apply for a process to bring the accused to justice, and I put into his hands orders to the officers having them in custody, to deliver them to the officer on his application."

The copy of the affidavit sent with the message, reads:

"I, James Wilkinson, brigadier-general and commander-in-chief of the army of the United States, to warrant the arrest of Samuel Swartwout, James Alexander, Esq., and Peter V. Ogden, on a charge of treason, misprision of treason, or such other offence against the government and laws of the United States, as the following facts may legally charge them with, on the honour of a soldier, and on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do declare and swear that in

<sup>1</sup> The Blennerhassett papers. By William H. Safford, pp. 182, 183. Memoirs of his own times. By General James Wilkinson, vol. ii., appendix, doc. xxx.