

Bonaparte's assumption of the Spanish throne was precisely the event of all others conceivable to close the ears of *both* governments to such an application.

“England, before on ill-terms with Spain, promptly took the part of the dethroned king, and sent the flower of her armies to the peninsular war. England was publicly and irrevocably committed to the cause of the exiled monarch, and, of course, to the integrity of his dominions.

“To ask Napoleon's consent to the independence of Mexico would have seemed something like soliciting his consent to the partition of the French empire. Mexico was part of the kingdom which he ruled through his brother Joseph. Mexico was *his*. If he had been disposed to give it away, an adventurer from far off America would not have been the selected recipient.

“A multitude of political combinations can be imagined which would have rendered one or the other of the hostile governments an eager listener to the bland and able representations of Aaron Burr. Unfortunately for him, perhaps unfortunately for Mexico, affairs took the turn which excluded his proposals even from consideration.”

While in London, Colonel Burr fortunately became the guest of Jeremy Bentham, the distinguished English political writer, at whose two residences, one in Queen Square Place, Westminster, London, and the other at Barrow Green, he was delightfully entertained as a distinguished guest.

Whether he had selfishly induced Samuel Swartwout to follow him to England and there serve him for the promotion of his projects no definite information is available to substantiate a conclusion. Colonel Burr's correspondence and journal affords little light by which to gain any distinct knowledge concerning the matters upon which they bestowed for a time their undivided attention.

On Friday, August 19, 1808, Colonel Burr wrote from Barrow Green, to Samuel Swartwout, in London, saying:

“If I had nothing but amusement in view, this would be my residence for at least six months. Unless I should visit town on Sunday, which is not quite decided, my return will depend on the advice which may be received from and by you. * * * *

“The key of the drawers [at No. 30, Craven Street, London,], which contain my papers is herewith enclosed. Please select out Gould's surveys of the coast of Florida, four sheets. Map of North Carolina, four sheets. Map of Mexico, large sheet, manuscript. A map of certain roads, *et cet.*, on very thin paper. A map of Lake Nicaragua, one sheet, manuscript. Two maps on common paper, and coarsely executed, very long and narrow; one of the river