

splendid dreams of conquest. A man of rare energy and of great executive force, he would have formed there a strong and stable government, superior to faction, and which might have solved the great problem of how to maintain at once, a strong, and yet popular government—a problem which we have been unable to solve.

Liberal in sentiment, he would have made education universal; the arts and sciences would have been encouraged as never before; religion he would have left untrammelled and uncontrolled; the revenues of the mines would have been spent in the construction of public works and for the glory of the State; canals and railroads, piercing the mountains, would have joined sea to sea, and swift steamers sailing east and west, have poured into her lap the products of all nations. Her unequalled history, too, would have been written; the world's scholars penetrating her secret cloisters, would have unearthed the wealth of manuscript there hidden, and from the temples of Uxmal, Palenque, and the thousand buried cities of plain and forest, we might have gleaned the history of that marvelous race, who, from the ruins of Toltec art, constructed an empire of civilization which was vigorous with age when our oldest political systems were in the weakness of infancy.

These and many other glowing visions were, no doubt, present in the brain of this remarkable man at this stage of his career; how far legitimate were the methods by which he hoped to realize them, let the casuist determine. He has been called a filibuster and an adventurer; but then there was never a ranker set of filibusters than those brought to these shores by the *Mayflower*, and them we revere, and rightly, too, as most perfect models of correctness; in fact, the whole history of the race is little more than a record of the filibustering of the strong against the weak.

But to return to our subject. His plan was predicated largely on the fact of a war with Spain. Jefferson's prudence averted that war, and Burr turned his energies toward advancing a secondary scheme which he had formed, should the first prove impracticable. This was the establishment of a colony on the Washita River near Texas, to be used as a base of operations in future attempts upon Mexico. General Wilkinson, then Governor of the new territory of Louisiana, Daniel Clark, a wealthy New Orleans merchant, Andrew Jackson, Governor Alston, General Adair of Kentucky, Colonel Dupeister, and hundreds of other prominent persons were cognizant of this scheme, and interested in it. As a preliminary step 50,000 acres of land on the Washita River, known