

will be a host of choice spirits. Wilkinson shall be second to Burr only; Wilkinson shall dictate the rank and promotion of his officers. Burr will proceed westward 1st August, never to return; with him go his daughter; the husband will follow in October, with a corps of worthies.

“Send forth an intelligent and confidential friend with whom Burr may confer; he shall return immediately with further interesting details; this is essential to concert and harmony of movement. Send a list of all persons known to Wilkinson, west of the mountains, who may be useful, with a note delineating their characters. By your messenger send me four or five commissions of your officers, which you can borrow under any pretence you please; they shall be returned faithfully. Already are orders to the contractor given to forward six months' provisions to points Wilkinson may name; this shall not be used until the last moment, and then under proper injunctions; the project is brought to the point so long desired. Burr guarantees the result with his life and honour, with the lives, the honour and the fortune of hundreds, the best blood of our country.

“Burr's plan of operations is to move down rapidly from the Falls [Louisville] on the 15th November, with the first 500 or 1,000 men in light boats now constructing for that purpose, to be at Natchez between the 5th and 15th of December; there to meet Wilkinson, there to determine whether it will be expedient in the first instance to seize on or pass Baton Rouge; on receipt of this send an answer; draw on Burr for all expenses, *et cct.*

“The people of the country to which we are going are prepared to receive us; their agents now with Burr say that if we will protect their religion, and will not subject them to a foreign power, that in three weeks all will be settled.

“The gods invite to glory and fortune; it remains to be seen whether we deserve the boon; the bearer of this goes express to you from Burr; he is a man of inviolable honour and perfect discretion; formed to execute rather than to project; capable of relating facts with fidelity, and incapable of relating them otherwise; he is thoroughly informed of the plans and intentions of Burr, and will disclose to you as far as you inquire, and no further; he has imbibed a reverence for your character, and may be embarrassed in your presence; put him at ease, and he will satisfy you.”

How much of this communication was originated by Colonel Burr and how much by General Wilkinson is a question that is unanswerable.

No one can doubt that it was not the sincere wish of General Wilkinson to have it believed that the ciphers sent him by Colonel Burr were translatable into the language with which he invested them. Nevertheless parts of the phraseology which he elicited from the ciphers respecting Samuel Swartwout