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FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The opinion formed by the author "Common sense" and others, during the American revolution, of the capability of the U. S. to build and equip a small navy, never has been denied by any description of politicians, in this country, and if at that time it was an expedient measure, it was certainly the duty of men in public (or in private) life to recommend it; but does it follow that a measure, if at one time wise and politic, is always to be so, that no change in internal polity, or external relations, are to produce any correspondent accommodating measures, to meet immediate and pressing exigencies; of all the strictures thrown upon political men, those are the most absurd and unreasonable, which would tax them with inconsistency for declining the practice at this day, recommended thirty years ago, after the progress of events had totally altered the state of concomitant circumstances. All sublunary things are by their nature, over which man has a very limited control, liable to change—The eternal principles of rectitude, which having reference principally to a different or a future state of existence, are only exempted from this fluctuation.

Where it is agreed that protection is necessary for the inhabitants of a country, against foreign invasion, and that naval protection is the most efficacious, or the only one to be relied on, as in the case of England at this day; or, if a nation has determined to support a colonial system, for the advantages that arise out of it to the parent state, then, in either of these cases, a navy may be necessary; but is either of them any way applicable to the U. States? Are her citizens afraid to meet their enemies on her own shores? Is her population so full as to enable her to go into a colonizing system?—Such objects as the foregoing the Dutch and English have to justify them for the establishment of their navies; but their incompetence to protect their trade, the whole world has witnessed, and yet this is by our American advocates of a navy the only reason given for the establishment of one—*that it may do what it cannot do!*

If any blame can accrue to an administration for letting money lie dead in the treasury, certainly the late one is very clear of it; they indeed knew the value of it, and calculating that federalism was always worth its *weight in gold!*—they of course never had any money *lying dead* in the treasury.

But it is not so with "our miserly administration." Blockheads! to be on the verge of a war with England, and yet have money in the treasury!! Could any thing be more impolitic than this?

But again, our admirable politician remarks with much gravity on the injury the public sustains from the sum of eight millions two hundred thousand dollars, "lying dead in the treasury," tho' it is known to every man in the U. S. that the public money is lodged in the banks—that the banks lend it on interest to the merchants—that the merchants trade with it to all parts of the globe, and pay on this trade duties, tonnage, &c. amounting to 10 per cent. at least on every voyage, into the treasury, through the custom houses—yet "Americus" asserts that this 8,200,000 dollars are dead, and that to put it into circulation would give new energy to business—admirable financier?

Neither the losses we sustained by embargoes in French ports, nor by the blockade of them by British fleets, have been mitigated by a navy without actual war.

But the masterly stroke of policy which interdicted the trade with France and her dependencies, thus giving a monopoly of our trade to England, the enemy of France, and having thus destroyed the principle of reciprocity, they were obliged to get a navy to protect the remaining trade with England—an exclusively British trade, though it was granted on all hands that this trade with Britain was more necessary to her than to us—that in fact it was indispensible to her—and that rather than see it injured she would rise in its defence, (and which she afterwards did.) This trade of materials for her factories conveyed to her dominions, the returns of the same in her own manufactures; the provisioning of her West India islands at all times, and herself in time of extreme famine, our supplies of silver to her Indian possessions, mediately flowing into her coffers—This was the trade that a navy was reared to support, and the supporters of it boasted of the fall of insurance in consequence thereof; an advantage which was thrown entirely into the scale of British interests, while the government of the U. S. exhibited the astonishing spectacle of combining with that of Britain to commit a *felo-de-se* on its own commerce: For the articles we carried to the British dominions being indispensible to her, she must have obtained at any price, if the insurance on such property was 10 per cent. in place of 5—So much the worse for her, it made little difference to *us*, according to the axiom, "the consumer pays, Britain being in this case the consumer; but the navy was established, and in consequence thereof "*Seven millions*" was saved in insurance, "*on solid data,*" as appears by a report to Congress, by a committee for that purpose appointed.

This committee might have seen, and probably did see, *on good federal data!* that this "seven millions" was a clear saving, not to the American people, but to the British people, in consequence of the establishment of the American navy; and in order to do this favor to England, the U. S. disbursed nearly as much of her own money in a navy establishment!!—Is it surprising then, that all the friends of England should have supported the rise of a navy? If this scheme is favorable to the growth of American commerce, it must be allowed that the British agents and partizans are become better affected to our interests than their own—which we do not admit.

This question being important in its nature, becomes interesting in discussion; a true republican prefers on all occasions the *trial by argument* to any other mode of proceeding; for he who would substitute his own *ipse dixit* for the common sense of the country, is a tyrant in principle, under whatever denomination he may choose to appear.

RESPONDENT.

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

On the MOTION to commit Messrs. Burr, Blannerhassett, and Smith.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN GEN. WILKINSON'S EXAMINATION.

(B)

Philadelphia, 25th July, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Swartwout, the brother of Col. S. of New York, being on his way down the Mississippi, and presuming that he may pass you at some post on the river, has requested of me a letter of introduction, which I give with pleasure, as he is a most amiable young man, and highly respectable from his character and connections. I pray you to afford him any friendly offices which his situation may require, and beg you to pardon the trouble which this may give you.

With entire respect,
Your friend and obedient servant,
A. BURR.

His Excellency, General Wilkinson.

Mr. Swartwout.

(C.)

Copy of a letter from General Dayton to General Wilkinson, written in cypher, except those parts printed in *Italics*. This cypher was designed by Gen. Dayton, and founded on the Hierogiyphics, known to Gen. Wilkinson and Col. Burr.

July 24th, 1806.

XA!)-O ⁀ *I* _ ⁀ "V ⁀—O- *I*
A"

□

It is now well ascertained that you are to be displaced in next session. Jefferson will affect to yield reluctantly to the public sentiment, but yield he will; prepare yourself therefore for it: you know the rest.

You are not a man to despair or even despond especially when such prospects offer in another quarter. Are you ready? Are your numerous associates ready? Wealth & Glory, Louisiana & Mexico...*I shall have time to receive a letter from you before I set out for Ohio,*...O H I O. *address one to me here & another to me in* Cincinnati. *receive and treat my* nephew *affectionately as you would, receive your friend.*

DAYTON.

(D)

SIR,

I have concluded to undertake the land *purchose* which we *talket* of last winter and *determinet* to go on the lands next fall—any number of settlers could be had on this side the mountains, but I should *prefer* to have the greater part from the western Country—you promised to write about the horses; but have heard nothing from you and suppose there will be no difficulty on that head—The money for the first payment is now ready—I shall be *att* Frankfort *abouth* the 15th *Augus* and hope then to meet you and Col. Lynch there—It is quite necessary that I should see Lynch as I shall be provided with Cash to go on vigorously with our speculation—Some of the Concerned are now on their way to see you and will be with you nearly as soon as this letter—Please to encourage them and give them a good account of things.—

Your humble servant
(Signed) A. STEPHENS.
John Peters Esq.
Nashville.

* *

Letter from Doctor Bollman to General Wilkinson, of the 27th September, 1806.

New Orleans, September 27th, 1806.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward to your Excellency, the enclosed letters, which I was charged to deliver to you by our mutual friend.

I shall remain for some time at this place, and should be glad to learn where and when I may have the pleasure of an interview with you. Have the goodness to inform me of it, and please to direct your letter to me to the care of Messrs. Chew and Relf, or enclose under cover to them.

I have the honor to be with
Great respect, sir,
Your Excellency's
most obedient servant,
(Signed) ERICK BOLLMAN.
Gen. Wilkinson.

(E.)

July 16th, 1807.

My Dear Friend,

As you are said to have removed your Head Quarters down the River, and there is a Report that the Spaniards intercept our mails which pass necessarily thro' the Territory occupied by them, in order to reach you; I think proper to address you in Cypher, that the contents may be concealed from the Dons, if they make so free as to open the letter... Take the following for the Catch word or Check word (and you may very readily decypher the figures) Viz. in your own Hieroglyphic [.]; but in your own Alphabet thus, [Hieroglyphics]
V⁀—O-'A

Every thing and even heaven itself appears to have conspired to prepare the Train for a grand explosion; are you also ready? For I know you flinch not when a great object is in view.... Your present is more favorable than your late position, and as you can retain it without suspicion or alarm you ought by no means to retire from it until your Friends join you in December some where on the River Mississippi...Under the auspices of Burr and Wilkinson, I shall be happy to engage and when the time arrives you will find me near you.

Write and inform me by first mail what may be expected from you and your associates...In an enterprize of such moment considerations even stronger than those of affection impel me to desire your cordial co-operation and active support.

DAYTON.

Adieu	Wealth & honor / Courage & union	Burr and Wilkinson.

Let me hear from you by mail, as well as by the first good private conveyance, and believe me, with the best wishes for your prosperity and happiness most truly,

Your friend and servant,
JONA: DAYTON.

If you write in Cypher use the same word, viz.

[Hieroglyphics]
V⁀—O-' A

(F)

Extract of a letter from James L. Donaldson, Esq. to General James Wilkinson, Dated Natchez October 30th 1806.

"Michael Myers arrived here to day in 15 days from St. Louis on his way to New Orleans—He made a communication to me with permission to transmit to you, which might stagger even credulity—Of his information he says *he is certain*, and most firmly believes in the intelligence he communicates—This is neither more nor less than that a plan to revolutionize the western Country has been formed, matured and is ready to explode, that Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Orleans & Indiana are combined to declare themselves Independent on the 15th, November. That proposals have been made to some of the most influential Characters at St. Louis, by an accredited Agent of the Conspiracy to join in the plan—That this person whose name Myers refuses to reveal, is in a most respectable line of life, and had the most unquestionable vouchers of his mission in French and English—That he declared if *Money* was necessary that it might be Commanded to any extent'—It is proper to add that the persons thus applied to at St. Louis, altogether refused to Concur in any plan of the Kind, saying that it should be only superior force that should dispense with their oath of fidelity to the United States.—This may all appear to a person as well acquainted as you are with the politics of the western country, as *a second Spanish Conspiracy*, and as such be ridiculed, and such is my impression of the wonderful plan. But Myers so firmly believed it that having set forth on his journey by land to the United States.—He was induced by his fears hastily to return to arrange his business at all events and prepare for an explosion—He most solemnly protests the Truth of the Communication, and declares there are only four persons in St. Louis who are privy to the disclosure made by the secret agent—It is not improbable that this may be a" Ruse de guerre" a stratagem set on foot by the Patrons of the western world, to foster and keep alive the dissention, which excited by the pretended exposition of ancient Conspiracies may be fanned into a flame by spreading an alarm of an immediately & pressing treasonable combination—This I am apt to believe is the case, and in order more fully to succeed they may study and affect Mystery, as better Calculated to excite suspection, and that they may have the honor of a *New discovery*—However, be the matter as it may, I communicate it to you, as I received it, and have only to regret, that you had it not in person from Myer's information, of which whatever your judgment might pronounce, the solemnity of his assertion and his certainty of the plan (altho' he was not at liberty to divulge the means) must have staggered the mind *Capable of believing it.*"

[G.]

Sir,

Your letter of 6th inst. has been duly received. Supposing that you will be much engaged this morning, I defer waiting on your excellency, til you will be pleased to inform me of the time when it will be convenient to you to see me.

I remain with great respect,
Your excellency's
Most obedient servant,
(Signed) ERICK BOLLMAN.
New-Orleans, 25th Nov. 1807.

His Excellency gen. Wilkinson, Fauxbourg Marigny the house between Madam Frevigne and Malle M'Carty.

[H]

The deposition of A. L. Duncan, a witness in behalf of the U. States against A. Burr, taken at the request of the said witness, but by the consent of George Hay, Esq. Attorney for the U. S. in the district of Virginia and of the said Aaron Burr, to be read in evidence, if required on all trials, motions or other proceedings in course of law in which the said Aaron Burr shall be concerned at the prosecution of the said U. States.

I consent that this affidavit may be read in all cases in which the United States are concerned against A. Burr in the same manner as above expressed.

(Signed)
GEO: HAY, *Attorney U. S. for the Virginia district.*

During the commotions excited in New-Orleans last winter what was termed colonel Burr's conspiracy and his associates and accomplices in that place, I was called upon in my professional capacity by general Wilkinson for counsel and advice in some measures which he was about to adopt.—The temper and disposition which I had discovered in New Orleans and the reports which daily reached that city from above, induced the belief that half measures were not suited to the times; and that the public safety required the exertion of extraordinary energies. I therefore urged the general repeatedly to the seizure of suspected persons and the declaration of martial law. When Bollman was seized, I suggested to the general the expediency of transmitting with him a statement of facts, on oath, to justify the step and to warrant his commitment. He then put the letters which he said were written to him by col. Burr, and which he also said were transmitted to him by Swartwout and Bollman, into my hands, on which, together with some further information and knowledge of their views which the general possessed, I framed the deposition which accompanied Bollman, intentionally omitting every thing which was calculated to inculpate the general, or which might by exciting suspicions have a tendency to weaken his testimony. Having prepared the deposition I presented it to gen. Wilkinson to be deposed to, who strongly and repeatedly objected to the omissions I had made, and urged warmly that the whole should be introduced. He also desired that a declaration of Bollman with which he frequently interlarded his conversations, should be entered, viz. "that he had come to New Orleans with views to the settlement of lands on the Ouchita, and was a mere spectator." And it was only after a full exposition of the sole objects of the document, that I could prevail on him to depose it. It is idle and absurd to impute any sinister intention to the omission, because on any trial which might ensue, it was known the original documents must be introduced as they have been.—I recollect, during the winter, general Wilkinson was called before the legislature of the territory to give an account of the state of public affairs, and he informed me he had intended to submit to their inspection col. Burr's duplicate, he having erased such parts as had been intended to implicate him, as he knew several of the members, and particularly the Speaker, to be interested in opposition to his measures and for the promotion of such a state of things as was best calculated to favor col. Burr's Enterprise. I understand that the erasure made on this duplicate was but partial, the general having determined to give oral information to the legislature, which employed him two successive days: and that he considered the duplicate unimportant, (whilst the original has been preserved untouched) excepting the short paragraph relating to Bollman, which is preserved in its original state, & the only words erased, "Your letter post marked 13th May is received" have been reinserted in the general's own hand. On or about the 16th of August, since my arrival in this city, gen. Wilkinson put into my hands and those of J. L. Donaldson, esq. four or five letters, observing to us "I submit to you those letters which I have not examined since I left St. Louis, they are from col. Burr, I do not recollect their particular contents, but having received them in confidence and knowing they blend personalities with politics, I have not permitted myself to re-examine them, because I feel an insuperable repugnance to violate the trust of any man—I give them to you, here is the cypher, decypher them, consider their contents well, and then inform me whether their promulgation may be necessary to my honor." We did so, and we gave the general our opinion, that the promulgation might be necessary and proper. From an examination of those letters and the general's evident surprise, and prompt declaration of his ignorance when we communicated certain passages of those letters, it was my own and Mr. Donaldson's opinion that he had but partially decyphered them.

In answer to interrogatories on the part of col. Burr, I recollect to have