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FROM THE AURORA.

INDEPENDENCE OF HAYTI.

This event has been doubted by politicians, because its evident tendency would be the ultimate ruin of the British West India colonies. But those who estimate the policy of the times, by reference to former circumstances, are not very likely to form conclusions analogous to the present state of politics in Europe.

The actual relations and desperate condition of the British power at present, must render all previous rules inapplicable to the new state of things. The extravagant daring at Copenhagen; the wanton and perfidious attack on Constantinople; and the base and barbarous attack on the Chesapeake, though not new in their character, are new in their cause—and resemblance between the conduct of a power inflated by overgrown power into arrogance, will frequently resemble the efforts of its despair, in the last struggles for vengeance and existence. The attacks made by Britain upon Genoa, Venice and Tuscany, in the early stages of the French revolution, and upon Copenhagen in 1801, were the audacious acts of a power blinded to fatuity by its artificial riches, and the success with which it had involved all the nations of Europe in war.

But the attacks upon Copenhagen lately, upon Constantinople a little time before, and upon the Chesapeake about the same period, arose from the consciousness of a frustrated and defeated policy, rushing rapidly to ruin and humiliation, and seeking, in its madness, the destruction of all that falls within the course of its resentment. The politicians of Great Britain may be said to be *running a muck*—like those Malays who, in an intoxicated state, feel the stings of anger or revenge, rush forth and destroy all who come in their way, when they cannot vent their revenge, or steep their *kreeses* in the blood of those they hate.

The same madness would lead to the acknowledgment of St. Domingo, as an independent state, under Christophe. Under Toussaint it was sanctioned from different motives. Then it was to sever St. Domingo from France, now it would be from another cause.

The issue of the attack upon Copenhagen may in either result unfold more of the mystery. The appointment of General Craig to the command in Canada, and the augmentation of the military force in the northern British colonies, and their preparations there, together with the arts employed to stir up the Indian tribes on our frontier, may perhaps aid in the explanation of what relates to St. Domingo.

The movements in Canada, are not to be separated from the general system which produced the attack upon the Chesapeake in our waters, nor from the conspiracy which has been (in spite of juridical perfidy) developed to the *core* at Richmond; nor from that scheme more early, but not so conspicuous, known by the name of Miranda's expedition. These various and complex operations form only the little ramification of one immense scheme of universal distraction, disorder, and destruction, the object of which was the ruin of all industry and prosperity in the internal concerns of nations, however remote, in order to subject them to the commercial monopoly and avarice of G. Britain.

The scheme blasted at so many points, and menacing ruin at the root to the contrivers, is again succeeded by despair—which seeing no prospect of effecting the purpose by force, rushes on resolved to involve in a common perdition all who could not be reduced by coercion or seduced by cunning or by fraud.

The acknowledgment of the government of Christophe, in St. Domingo, is founded upon the well known maxims of war—that of creating a diversion at an extreme point, in order to cover more serious attacks on another; or to draw attention from Canada, by the necessity of guarding against an attack on the southern extremity of Florida.

Spain, involved in the intrigues of Britain, was for a long time a dupe; and while the promise of a revolt in the United States was held out to Spain, the expedition against Curracoa was actually attempted; and Mexico with Louisiana were held forth as the prize for American treason. This accomplished, (if it could have been) would have secured to Great Britain a *rounding* from Canada to the mouth of the Tennessee river, and the command of the Mississippi. The object has been frustrated, but despair leads to the ruin of the countries which it could not separate.

St. Domingo will now be a British military depot; from that position, so contiguous to the Florida shores, a diversion will be made in favor of Canada, and to the annoyance of the United States. There will the best bloods find a rallying point, and those sums, the payment of which were guaranteed to be paid by *Heslop*, the British chief at Trinidad, through Barclay at New York, on the credit of the bills of Ogden & Co. will now find another guarantee in the British agency at St. Domingo.

The consequence may be, that the French will reinforce *Ferrand* at St. Domingo, and war may once more desolate that island, and curse this continent with that scourge of yellow fever, which is rarely a visitant of our shores, but when war rages in the islands: and the southern point of our territory may be harrassed by the incursions of the British, who will have the plausible pretext of seizing upon the Spanish colony of Florida, to afford a mask for the British adherents in the United States, by which they may impede active measures of defence, that may be recommended by our executive.

Such are the reflections which arise to our minds upon the acknowledgment of the independence of Hayti. Time will shew whether our speculations on this point are more or less solid than those which we threw out on Burr's conspiracy, before the public were awakened to their danger.

CIRCUIT COURT o THE UNITED STATES.

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

(Evidence of General Wilkinson continued)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.

I think I did mention to them the propriety of going in the attire of private citizens, to elude the vigilance of Burr's spies, many of whom were in New Orleans, and would give him notice of their departure from that place. It was also prudent to send them in that manner, that the jealousy of the Spaniards through whose territories they had to pass, might not be excited. They were sent privately, for the success of the enterprize depended upon it. *Mr. Wickham.* Did you give them written or oral instructions? A. Both. Q. Have you copies of the written instructions? A. Not here. Q. Will you furnish copies? [*Mr. Hay* objected to the production of those orders. He said that they had a right to impeach the credibility of the witness, but not to compel him to disclose the orders given to those under his command.] Q. Were these orders to seize col. B. wherever they could find him? A. They were sent on that service expressly. I think the orders were confined to Natches, information having been received, that col. B. had taken up his quarters there—Q. Were there any orders to seize him even in court? I cannot say, but presume there were not. Q. Were any private soldiers sent on this service? A. No. Q. Were any soldiers sent to lieutenant Jones's gun boats? A. Infantry were furnished to supply the place of marines, in all the gun boats. Q. Were any instructions sent by you that the men in lieut. Jones's gun boats should act? A. I gave lieut. Jones no orders; he was not under my command. Q. Was commodore Shaw considered under your authority? A. He was rather considered as co-operating with me; but he had a discretion of his own.—Q. Was there a recommendation to commodore Shaw to give directions to lieut. Jones to take any measures to apprehend col. B.? A. I think the orders required him to do so. Q. What orders were given for the disposal of col. B.? A. The orders were, that he should be put on board a vessel & sent by the way of N. Orleans to the city of Washington. Q. Were these orders written? A. I believe they were. Q. What orders had you from the government, or did you do it on your own authority? [Gen. Wilkinson took time till to-morrow, to consider the subject and examine his papers.] When you were at New Orleans, were not letters addressed to other persons frequently brought to you from the post-office—by whose orders were they delivered to you;—were they opened and with what view? [*Mr. Hay* thought that they had no right to ask such a question. It might be important between the U. S. and gen. Wilkinson, or between any other person and gen. Wilkinson. But it does not appear to be proper to interrogate him as to his conduct any where, unless it has some bearing on the cause; nor can a witness be asked any question, the answering of which might subject him to a prosecution—If we introduced evidence on that point, they had a right to cross examine him. *Mr. Wickham.* We may suppose, without impeaching the credit of gen. Wilkinson, that he will give as favorable an account of his conduct as any man standing in his situation may be disposed to do. Gen. Wilkinson has detailed a number of facts to account for the conduct of col. B. He has taken very strong ground. We wish to show that the general has the strongest possible motive to criminate col. B. We were permitted to ask him, about sending officers in disguise to seize col. B. We wish now to prove some other seizures.—This evidence has a direct reference to the case of col. B. If gen. Wilkinson took all these measures it will surely have a tendency to weaken his testimony. *Mr. Martin.* We mean to show that gen. Wilkinson is identified with the government; and that the government had declared they would justify him. We have a witness to prove the express declarations of the secretary at war, that Gen. W. stood low with the government till his energetic measures at New Orleans had raised him in the estimation of the President. They can only justify his acts by shewing an impropriety in the conduct of col. B.

The more *we* shew that the constitution has been trampled on and the rights of the citizens invaded, the more *they* will endeavor to shew the impropriety of the conduct of col. B. in order to justify it. Mr. *Hay.* Mr. Martin has avowed the motives of col. B's. counsel to be to identify gen. Wilkinson with the government. Admitting that gen. Dearborn had made the declarations ascribed to him; admitting that the President had formed that opinion of gen. Wilkinson, how can his answer to the question propounded have any bearing on this case. Suppose gen. Wilkinson should say that in consequence of the expected arrival of B. the agitated state of the country, and a knowledge that he was surrounded by the accomplices and partizans of B. in New Orleans, he had taken letters from the post-office (and he would only say he had done what he ought) how could it affect the present case. It is manifest that the answer of gen. Wilkinson must leave the question between the U. States and col. B. exactly where it was before. Mr. *Wickham.* When these questions were asked Mr. Murray before, they were thought proper, and he was even cross examined by the counsel for the prosecution. The gentlemen have ascribed to col. B. improper acts. Now to impeach gen. Wilkinson's credibility, we show that he has been guilty of violent acts. Is he not interested to show the conduct of col. B. to be improper, in order to justify his own. Mr. *Baker.* Suppose, says Mr. Hay, this declaration of gen. Dearborn to be true; suppose that gen. Wilkinson did not deserve to stand high in the confidence of government, would it not leave the question between the U. States and col. B. exactly where it was before. At one time the counsel on the other side seem willing to give the general up. Now they stand forward as the champion of the worthy general. Suppose it to be proved that he has thrust his hand, or directed others to do it, into the post-office, and pillaged letters. Suppose it to be proved that he has made erazures on letters and then sworn that translations of them were true copies, which were as much like the originals as any other thing; and that he has sworn to this, that and the other whether true or false, will not all these things affect his credibility? Mr. *Wickham* said, that it was a question entirely for the consideration of gen. Wilkinson himself. If he thought proper to answer the question, it was not the business of the prosecution to interfere. The *Chief Justice*, after making some remarks on the nature of the question, observed that gen. Wilkinson was not bound to answer any question which might criminate himself. Some observations were made as to the extent of the opinion of the court; Mr. *Wirt* supposed, from the decision of the court, in the case of Wyllie, that gen. Wilkinson could not be bound to answer the question. Mr. *Wickham* thought directly the reverse.] Mr. *Wickham* to gen. Wilkinson. You have heard the opinion of the court. Were or were not letters addressed to other persons frequently sent from the post-office to you, by whose orders, and were they opened, and with what view? Can you answer that question without criminating yourself? A. I shall not answer that question. Mr. *Wickham.* Were orders sent to stop and examine travellers. A. There were. These were the joint orders of gov. Claiborne and myself. At that time col. B. was daily expected at Natchez with 2000 men, and I wished to cut off all communication between that place and New Orleans, in order to prevent him from receiving information from his adherents, and to gain time for strengthening our defences. The imperious circumstances which justified this measure I will relate. A general panic had seized the friends of government at New Orleans. [Here gen. Wilkinson was interrupted by the counsel of col. B. who objected to his stating the motives which governed him. Mr. *Wirt* said, that if the witness were called on to accuse himself of arbitrary acts, he ought to be permitted to explain the motives with which those acts were committed. Mr. *Wickham* said it was their wish to go on with the cause, without being interrupted with the explanations of the witness; and after they had gone through, the counsel for the prosecution might ask for any further explanation which they deemed proper. Mr. Wirt observed that he did not mean to interrupt the examination. But it was well known that the proceedings of each day are published; and it is important to the feelings of the witness, that he should state the grounds on which he proceeded. Mr. *Martin.* The proceedings have heretofore been published without regard to the feelings of colonel B.] *Mr. Wickham* to gen. W. When did gen. Adair arrive at New Orleans? A. On the 14th of January. *Mr. Wickham.* Has your conduct, in seizing Adair, Ogden, Swartwout and others, been approved or disapproved by the government? Have you received any communications from the government on that subject? [*Mr. Hay.* It has been the constant effort of the counsel on the other side to identify gen. W. with the government. We have heard of the plundering of post-offices, the violating oaths, and the prostrating private rights. Now it is asked if the government approved of these acts. Is it decorous, is it proper to pursue this course? They may ask questions to implicate gen. Wilkinson—but is it proper to endeavor to cast an imputation on the government? I feel no solicitude on the subject; for when all the circumstances are considered, and the real situation of that country understood—though, I will not say that the measures were strictly lawful, yet I will say the exigencies of the times called for them—and that the person who held the high and responsible situation of gen. W. was bound to pursue the course which he did. Gen. W. still retains the command of the army. If the gentlemen wish to infer from that circumstance that the government approved of his conduct, let them do so. *Mr. Wickham.* It is not our object to criminate the government, but to obtain the truth. We hope that gen. W. will not say that his conduct has been approved by the government. Is this a secret? The *Chief Justice* said, that he should be sorry to require an answer which would state the opinions of the government. He was sorry that an objection had been made to answering the question. *Mr. Hay* said, he believed that the government knew nothing about it, and rather than it should be supposed that the administration directed measures which they were unwilling to avow—let them go on. He was willing that they should go on; & instead of making this an enquiry into the conduct of col. B. and his accomplices, let it be solely an enquiry, as it seemed to be, into the conduct of the government.] *Mr. Wickham* repeated the same question to gen. W. whether his conduct in seizing gen. Adair, Ogden, Swartwout and others, had been approved or disapproved by the government, and whether he had received any communication from the government on this subject?—Genenral Wilkinson said, he had no objection to answering the question, except so far as the answer might be considered a disclosure of what might be esteemed private instructions. In the first instance, said gen. Wilkinson, I acted on my own responsibility. I have said that I was left six months without orders. But I seized no man under the orders of the President.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1.

General Wilkinson was about to explain more fully some of the interrogatories put to him at his last examination, when he was interrupted by *Mr. Wickham*, who declared that he felt no disposition to interfere with the explanations of the witness, but, was very anxious to go on with the cause. With respect to the motives with which any act was done he knew nothing, and cared nothing. The *Chief Justice* declared that Gen. Wilkinson had a right to explain any interrogatories, and again repeated the substance of the opinion which he had before given.

Gen. Wilkinson proceeded.—I have been asked whether in October, 1806, I did not expect immediate hostilities with the Spaniards; I was required to account for the cause of the sudden change of position of the Spanish army; I was interrogated as to the convention with the Spanish commandant, and with peculiar delicacy, I was asked whether any money was received as a condition; also, whether I had not posted guards on the high ways about New Orleans, to intercept travellers. To these interrogatories, quite unexpected, I made such replies as I was then enabled to do from memory. By referring to my papers they will shew that I did expect a war with Spain so early as September, 1806. [Here the General referred to an extract of his letter, of the 8th of September, and his letter of the 4th of October, 1806, to the Secretary at War, which were read. See notes M. and N.] On my advance to take the command of the barrier post, I passed Fort Adams on the 12th of September.—There I found two letters from Colonel Cushing, detailing his correspondence with the Spanish commander. I was then asked for a copy of the convention. I am now about to do that for which my country and gentlemen of my profession may perhaps condemn me. But under the charges and insinuations by which my character has been assailed, I flatter myself, that should I be guilty of an impropriety, the circumstances in which I am placed will excuse me. Here are all the papers relative to that convention. [General Wilkinson produced a number of letters, containing the correspondence between him and the Spanish commandants, about the time the troops of that nation recrossed the Sabine. Mr. *Martin* said they wished to have the papers, and hoped the court would have no objection. The *Chief Justice* observed, that he had no objection, but wished it to be distinctly understood, that he would not coerce the production of any paper which related to a negociation between this country and any foreign government. Mr. *Martin* said, that would depend upon circumstances. He held it a sacred principle that if the government thought proper to prosecute a citizen, they were bound to produce every paper which might be necessary for his defence, or give up the prosecution. Mr. *Hay* thought it would be improper to read the papers, because they related to a negociation with a foreign government, and because they had no relation to the subject before the court. General Wilkinson had, indeed, from the insinuations which had been made, been induced to produce those papers; but it was, evidently, done with a considerable degree of embarrassment; and would not justify the reading of them, if it were otherwise improper. Mr. *Wickham.* I have asked for the convention with the Spanish commandant, but am told that it is a state secret. I concur with Mr. Martin, that when an individual is prose-