

My Lord,

I can have no doubt heard of the arrival of some of my ships on the continent, and also of the miserable situation we were in when separated. The *Foudroyant* was in a most disabled state, having suffered so much in the gale, she became unseaworthy, and for some days was at the mercy of the wind and waves; after suffering more than I can describe, by the assistance of God, I arrived at this port. After obtaining that refitment I stand so much in need of, I am determined to cruise off the Havana, in hopes I may still fall in with and be joined by some of my scattered squadron. I presume on remaining in this port for some time, and till I have the satisfaction of hearing from the minister for conducting the marine department, having writ him every post for eight days past—I have had the honor of having letters from his excellency, copies of which letters as well as others, I have forwarded you in another dispatch, which you will perceive will be the triplicates of my dispatches to you in the United States—You will see their importance. If two more of my ships join me here, with a Spanish ship called the *St. Laurent*; I trust that I shall have a force shortly that will double that of the English, as I am informed they have but two line of battle ships in and about Jamaica. With this division I am impressed with an idea that I shall rejoice my government with the news of the fall of that colony, and it will afford more gratification than hundreds of millions from Vera Cruz. Apropos, our emperor is to receive one million of dollars from his catholic majesty on the score of an adjustment with the Spanish government at the Isle of Cuba. The Spaniards are sending a force to Vera Cruz, but that's of no consequence. There is a secret expedition going somewhere from this island, this I have correct. I beg you sir to be particular in your observations in the Chesapeake and other parts on the continent of the United States—Let the commanders of all French ships attached to you know these operations, and their readiness will be found necessary.

(Signed) P. WILLAUMEZ.  
Havana, 29th October, 1806.

No. IV.  
Havana, 6th November, 1806.  
To General Turreau.

My lord,

The contre admiral Willaumez, commanding here the ship belonging to his imperial majesty, has given orders to monsieur le Chateaufort, lieutenant of the ship, charged with these and other dispatches, to say that he is astonished at the conduct of the commanders of ships belonging to his imperial majesty in the American ports. He is alarmed at the behavior of the French ambassador, so fully instructed by his majesty. He is determined, as general in chief, to inform the French government of the conduct of the U. States—but he trusts that the French ships are now supplied with all necessaries.

(Signed) P. WILLAUMEZ.

No. V.  
Havana, 10th Nov. 1806.

If I have delayed, my dear Barney, to give you an account of the afflicting situation I have been in since the dispersion of my fleet; think not that your friendship shall escape my memory. At Cuba it is said there is a peace between France and England. [Here the characters are not legible] and further, it is said that Spain and us do not much agree to that which the English and Americans propose. Have you any account of the fleets of Warren, Strachan and Cochrane? The report goes that many of them were dispersed. Jerome has been fortunate in arriving in France, without accident. I calculated on being there with my squadron at the end of October, but the elements against whom man can do nothing, decided otherwise, and I am forced to stay here three or four months, enraged at having missed the convoys of Jamaica and the Windward Islands. I hope the Casard will arrive safe; she is commanded by an officer who is active, prudent and wise. If *L'Impetueux* could have remained with *Le Foudroyant*, or followed the route which I made by signal for the Havana, France would not have had to regret her loss. The *Foudroyant* has had her masts standing several days. By the end of the week they will come at her feet to put on the sheathing on her stern-post, which was carried away with the rudder.

(Signed) P. WILLAUMEZ.  
To Gen. Barney, at Baltimore.

REMARKS.

The general tenor of these dispatches is sufficient to prove the hostility of the writer towards the people of this country, and his insidious sentiments towards our government. The first thing, however, that attracts our notice, is the conduct of admiral Willaumez towards the captain and crew of an American vessel, because they did not give information against their countrymen. This gallant commander, whose fears converted the American merchantmen into admirals Warren's fleet, but the Americans in front. Yes, and as soon as he found that the ships that had so dreadfully alarmed him were not admiral Warren's fleet, but poor defenceless Americans; he is indignant, pursues them most manfully, determined (if he could catch them) to hang them at the yard-arm in the face of their countrymen at New-York! Reader! remember that this letter (as well as others) but this more particularly) was addressed to one of the first officers of Napoleon's government, to whom the writer appears anxious to recommend himself. Savage cruelty, united with the most brutal insolence, are the characteristic traits exhibited by the writer. Some of our fellow-citizens are bound in manacles, because they would not become informers against their countrymen; and others are threaten-

ed with an execution calculated to excite the keenest anguish in the breasts of their relatives, and to offer to our country the highest national indignity. The American ships were pursued to their ports, but fortunately for them, they escaped these blood-hounds, whose regret at missing them is strongly described. The gasconading parts of the letter, No. 1, may serve us to laugh at. The miserable manner in which this fleet was equipped, may serve to show to John Bull, that he has nothing to fear from the naval enterprise of Napoleon, and the facility with which the resources of Spain are commanded, must rejoice the free and independent sons of America, that they cannot be made thus subservient to the domination of a French commander.

Letter No. 2, now engages our attention—the conclusion of which, furnishes an evidence of the impertinence which the French officers indulge when speaking of our government. Because some of the seamen of one of their frigates have deserted, and are found on board an American ship, the government is to be insulted. *Avarice in money*, is where our government is most vulnerable, says the admiral! Since the time of the Directory, these Frenchmen have been trying to lay us under contribution in one way or another; in part we are sorry to say that they have succeeded, inasmuch as they have sold us a country, which by their management we run the risk of losing again—but that is over—let us keep fast our cash in future, for if they once put their hands into our treasury, we may, if no more, be saved the trouble of devising means to get clear of surplus revenue. The *secret expedition*, of which the admiral speaks in the conclusion of number 3, it is most probable was intended for the continent, and not for the British Islands, as they are too well guarded by their marine to indulge a hope of success.

From the 4th letter, we understand that general Turreau has apprized the admiral that the American government will not furnish money to equip his disabled fleet in the ports of the United States.

At this the admiral is all indignation, he is astonished at the commanders of the French ships! For what, we ask? They could not make our government launch out cash; then why are they to blame? We can see no reason for blaming these commanders, unless they had neglected to lay our towns under contribution, and thus have extorted money. Monsieur Turreau has not obeyed his imperial majesty's orders—what those orders were we know not, but if they related to money, we believe Monsieur Turreau has not been idle. Finally the admiral is determined to denounce the American government to his imperial majesty. This threat we have no doubt will be put in execution, and the vengeance of his imperial majesty on our government, and on the people of America they may or may not feel, according as the means of vengeance are afforded or denied.

From the same paper, of Friday last.

We understand that the publication of admiral Willaumez's letters in our last, has excited some sensations among certain persons, who contend that their contents cannot be defended, affect to treat them as fabrications. It would certainly be unnecessary at this time for the editor to state in what manner they came to his hands, but thus far he will say, that if they are fabrications they originated in the Havana, for they were put on board of a vessel at that port.

We feel no desire to excite in our countrymen any animosity against France, but we wish to warn them of the dangers to which they are exposed from the ambition of one who appears to have no limit to his views; indeed we would wish, once for all, to be understood, as always intending to distinguish between France and her present ruler. There are, we are confident, millions of Frenchmen, who abhor the system of tyranny under which they have fallen, and who claim our sympathy.

The editor of an American paper, who could read without indignation the letters of admiral Willaumez, and refuse to give them publicity, deserves the contempt and detestation of every friend of his country.

From the PITTSBURG GAZETTE.

A LETTER

From one of the young gentlemen who lately left this town.

Near Limestone, December 21, 1806,  
on board the *Adventure*.

I am sure if we lived in the days of chivalry, and each of us possessed the spirit for adventure of Don Quixote himself, we should be amply satisfied. We have met with them in all the variety the Ohio is capable of affording, and as danger is now passed, it will be a matter of amusement to give you a short sketch of the "hair breadth escapes", of the good boat *Adventure*. You know, my dear sir, "sweet is pleasure after pains."

On the 13th we arrived at Marietta, two of us went ashore, but had not left the boat five minutes before one returned in great haste and told us that we had better push off, that great suspicions were entertained of our boat that might detain us. We set off, the wind was high, and we pushed for the Virginia shore. When we were about the middle we perceived the whole town in a violent commotion. We of course, anticipated an attack, and cleared the deck for action. We had two pair of pistols, two guns, two swords, two daggers. Our ammunition consisted of twelve bullets and a pound of powder. We held a consultation, and the result was "victory or death." We continued working until night, when we were obliged to bring to on account of wind about seven miles below Marietta. Here we organized our men (nine in number) and placed centinels. However, the next sun beheld us freed from the fangs of an Ohio mob. But in avoiding Seylla we ran into Charibdis—in escaping from Ohio we fell into the power of the refined citizens of Wood county, Virginia. And here it would require the pen of a Foote or a Smollet, or the glomny pencil of a Salvator Rosa, to

give you an idea of those worse than savages.

At Marietta we were informed that the boats built at Madsingum had been taken up on suspicion of being engaged in Burr's plans, and that in consequence of this Blannerhasset took a *French leave* of his island (which by the bye comes near my notion of Eden) and went off with Tyler. Two days after we arrived at the island in the morning, Mrs. Blannerhasset had gone to Marietta (15 miles) to get a boat to follow her husband. We determined to wait for her. In the afternoon the Wood county gentry got an inkling of our being at Blany's (as they call him) and came over, to the amount of forty or fifty, about four o'clock as I was lying reading. Our men gave the alarm, and five or six and twenty of the hell-hounds appeared on the bank immediately over us. We could not extricate our boat before they seized the steering oar. I and other two of us rushed to the bow, each with a pistol, and at that moment at least twenty rifles were cocked and presented at our heads. I gave up all for lost, and resolved to single out one of the barbarians as a mark for my pistol, when the persons in the stern, with more presence of mind, called on us to remonstrate. We of course capitulated, and I and another became prisoners of war. After they had examined our boat, and whispered among themselves, one of their commanders, major Knox (a Braddock's field whiskey boy) informed us with all due solemnity that we must be detained for further examination. We attempted to argue with them, but finding it in vain we were obliged to submit. A strong guard was left in the boat, and we (the two prisoners) accompanied the rest to the house, which we found surrounded by forty men of the most savage countenances that ever superstition conceived, each with his rifle and knife. Here we were to wait until a court could be called. In the mean time four large fires were kindled round the house and a guard of eight or nine men surrounded each fire. The rooms of the house were also filled and we were not permitted to go from one room to another without a guard of five or six men with us. About 9 o'clock Mrs. Blannerhasset returned, and I witnessed a most sorrowful scene. She had been treated rudely in Marietta. A boat had been granted her at first, and on its way down was seized on. She returned to her island, her heart swelling with indignation and grief, and the first sight that presented itself to her was her fences destroyed & affording fire for the cut-throats who surrounded her house in all the revelry of drunkenness and riot; her cellars and smook house had been burst open, and her provisions made the property of the Wood county mob.—Mrs. Blannerhasset is one of the finest women I ever saw, and stood the shock with wonderful fortitude. She came up stairs into the room where we introduced ourselves. After which she ordered about a dozen of the gentlemen (among whom was captain Triplett, son of a Triplett, who fought at the Cowpens) to leave the room and retire down stairs. This they immediately did.

This was on Saturday night. On Sunday morning we had a view from our window that would have made the sternest rest of antiquity hold his sides with laughter; The rest of our crew were marched up to the house, under the guard of about thirty gentlemen militia, commanded by four or five of the veriest major sturgeon's in nature. They were brought into a beautiful court in the front of the house, and here they were kept standing for an hour. A guard was then sent for us in order to conduct us to Wood county house. We joined our companions in mistortune, and after marching and counter marching wheeling, &c. under the command of captain Cook, Knox, and Kincheloe, through a large cornfield, we arrived at the river where a full halt was called on account of the ice. A consultation was held about the propriety of crossing. We refused to enter the boat unless we were pushed in at the point of the bayonet. After some deliberation they agreed to conduct us back, and let the court sit at Blannerhasset's; as the mountain would not come to Mahomet, Mahomet mus go to the mountain. Accordingly on Monday noon justice Wolf and justice Kenschloe arrived at the island. We who were looked on as the ringleaders in the business, were ordered down into the presence. I was immediately dubbed, "Prisoner at the bar" charged with high crimes and misdemeanors against the United States, and my fellow prisoner made a witness in behalf of the prosecution. After he was sworn in due form, he took the stud about the third question, would not answer, and was ordered off to a separate room under a strong guard.—The men of our crew were then examined, but I insisted on their being acquitted first, which, after some hesitation was granted.—After a close examination, finding they could discover nothing against me, they consulted together and agreed to acquit me, and make me turn evidence against my fellow prisoner! I ought to have observed to you before, that every person in the room took the liberty of asking questions, and the judges insisted on their being answered.

In pursuance of their plan, my companion was brought down and arraigned; and the book was handed to me to swear, which I refused, on account of what I thought the illegality of their proceedings. They then represented to me the loathsomeness of Wood county jail, which I must certainly visit if I persisted; they declared (what I understood to be the fact) that it was a large, open, log building, without floor or fire place, filled with filth. I replied, as they now had the power, they might put

me where they pleased, but that I would not answer a word. My Mittimus was accordingly made out and delivered to the constable, who requested with a most demonaic countenance, to have me turned over to him. 'Twas now night, "a bitter cold one," and I prepared to march for Wood jail (a mile and a half) when Tom Brown, who formerly lived in Pittsburg, and a man of the name of Stevenson, started up from among the crowd, and declared I could not live through the night if I went to that jail, and prevailed upon the constable to let me remain on the island during the night. The fellow slept near my bed with a drawn sword. The rest of our comrades were acquitted: the form as follows: Wood County, Virginia.

United States } Charged with high  
vs. } crimes and misdemeanors.  
A. B. }  
Acquitted with honour.  
REBE WOLF  
DANIEL KENCHELOE.

Upon reflection, I thought I had better take the oath and avoid any further delay of our boat: so I wrote their honors a letter, requesting to be examined. They looked upon my letter as an insult, because it was not sufficiently long and humble: "the petition of A. B. humbly sheweth," &c. I would not submit to this; but wrote them another next morning rather more lengthy. After some debate they thought best to hear me. I believe they were alarmed, for they only asked me one or two questions, as whether the prisoner was personally acquainted with Burr, and Blannerhasset, &c. the very question they had before proposed to himself. I answered to their satisfaction and he was acquitted.

Thus were we detained from Saturday till Wednesday, under as strict a guard as the most atrocious criminals, subject to the insolence of our guards, and once or twice nearly stabbed by the bayonets of the drunken centinels, notwithstanding we never passed them but under the protection of a guard, who only laughed when we were insulted. Mrs. Blannerhasset was near being killed: a man in the room below fired his gun against the ceiling, and the ball penetrated nearly through, immediately beneath where she was sitting in the room above. One of the most beautiful and convenient houses I ever saw is nearly ruined; fences entirely pulled down and the cattle let into all the fields. From 50 to 80 men had been billeted at Mrs. Blannerhasset's for three days before we left it, and I suppose they are there still. These are the blessed effects of a mob government.

T. B. and three others left us at this island. The Marietta folks had heard of him and wished very much to "nab" him. The judges on his examination acquitted him on account of his good countenance.

We have Mrs. Blannerhasset on board, and we live elegantly.

The lively picture which the young gentleman has drawn in the above letter of the brutal violence of a lawless mob, the insults to the feelings of an unprotected, beautiful and delicate woman, the wanton and outrageous destruction of property, and the insolence of the seizure and detention of the young men, will excite the indignation of every thinking person. Some questions will naturally follow; do we live in a free country, or are we in France? Has the proclamation of Jefferson the same force here as the order of Bonaparte there? And will the militia of the United States without examination, without consideration, without even suspicion supported by any proof, execute the proclamation of Jefferson implicitly; and upon their own citizens, with the same servile submission that the myrmidons of Bonaparte execute his orders? It is this he asks, Jefferson needs no standing army to accomplish a tyranny; the governors of the several states and the militia officers under him will become here what the officers of Bonaparte's body guards are in France, ready tools to execute all the will and all the vengeance of their master, to seize a duke D'Enghein or a Monongahela trader. How little is a form of government calculated to preserve liberty, if the people do not understand and possess, and exert the principles of liberty? Unless the people act as the guardians of their own liberties, vain are forms of government; for president Jefferson with his governors and subordinate militia officers, may be as arbitrary, as tyrannical, as oppressive on their fellow-citizens of the U. S. as emperor Bonaparte with all his Praetorian band and three hundred thousand soldiers. If the people regard not the constitution, and will consider the president's proclamation as a sufficient authority; where is the difference between president Jefferson and emperor Bonaparte? The emperor does as he pleases with his standing army and the president with his militia, and both do as they please. The emperor has no constitution to control him, and if the president mind no constitution, and the people consider a proclamation as authority, the president of the United States will be as absolute a tyrant as the emperor of France. Let the people of America beware. The people having the government in their own hands is no security of liberty, unless they know their rights and their duties, and protect and exert them. The frenzied, armed, disciplined mob of Paris, raised by Bonaparte to the imperial throne, and now a nod from him would send them all to Cayenne, or the guillotine, or what is equally fatal, his secret and deadly dungeons. A flatterer is only less dangerous than a conqueror where he happens to be a coward.

The outrages described in the above letter, will, in the mind of every man of reflection, be greatly aggravated by their being committed under color of authority—a militia assembling without the call of the governor & magistrates, acting without a complaint on oath! After this will we ever speak of tyranny in other countries?

But they had the president's proclamation; will any one be hardy enough to say that this is an authority? None, I am sure, will, but a militia mob of Wood county, or those as cowardly, as mean and as servile as they—some patty justices in this town who were impudent enough to enter the store of

a merchant here, and seize provisions, which in the way of his business he had purchased—and to seize boats of a trader going down the river—I am sorry they were ashamed of themselves, and abandoned the prey in the grasp of their harpy talons. Had they retained it, we should have known whether law or a proclamation be strongest. Those pitiful tools of Jefferson, the Wood county militia and the justices of this town have, perhaps, never heard what an English court and jury did to their predecessors for executing general warrants. Let them remember this admonition, tho' Jefferson may lead them into a scrape, he will not pay the damages. They will be cats-paws to the monkey.

President Jefferson's proclamations are innocent when they are confined to exhorting the good citizens of the United States to apprehend a British ship of war. In this he is bravely exerting the powers which nature has given him for the protection of his country. His proclamation against the ship *Leander* and her captain (Whitby) had merit in it, for a specific object of pursuit was pointed out, and in obedience to that proclamation none but pursuers or pursued could suffer any injury. But his last proclamation is not of that harmless nature. It arms an Ohio, Virginia or Kentucky mob against any citizen trading down the river whom this sovereign mob may choose to suspect and puts the person and property of every innocent trading person (if a proclamation be law) under color of law, in the discretion of a mob assembled by this proclamation.

Why did Jefferson in this proclamation omit to name Burr as he did Whitby, and the object of Burr as he did the ship *Leander*? Was he ignorant of the man and the object? Was he afraid to offend Burr, least he should disclose what Jefferson wishes to be kept secret? Or did he mean to lay an embargo on all the trade of the western country, or give it as prey to his myrmidons who should choose to suspect it?

The above letter came accidentally into my hands. I have published it to warn the people against mob-assembling proclamations, and I have added these observations to call the attention of the people to the distinction between a law and proclamation, for by confounding them a sense of liberty may be lost here as in France. I have no personal interest. Burr I never saw—of his object I am absolutely ignorant. I hate him as the murderer of Hamilton. I am a stranger to Jefferson. I certainly neither love nor respect him (except what is due to his station) I cannot say I hate him, for if I have any feeling towards him it is of a different kind from hatred.

W.  
P. S. The only apology I have to make with respect to the above letter is, for concealing the names under the real or feigned initials or general description.

SIXTEENTH BULLETIN OF THE GRAND ARMY.

The duke of Brunswick has sent his marshal of the palace to the emperor; this officer was charged with a letter, in which he recommended his states to his majesty. The emperor said to him, "if I should cause the city of Brunswick to be demolished, and if I was not to leave one stone upon another, what could your prince say? Does not the law of retaliation permit me to do at Brunswick, what he wished to do in my capital? Do you announce the project of demolishing cities may be a folly, but to wish to destroy the honor of a brave army, and to propose to it to leave Germany by fixed stages, (journées d'étapes) on the single summons of the Prussian army, is what posterity will scarcely believe. The duke of Brunswick ought never to have suffered himself to commit such an outrage; grown grey under arms, he ought to have respected military honor; besides, in the plains of Champagne, this general was not able to acquire the right of treating the French standards with such contempt; such a summons can only dishonor the soldier who was capable of making it; it is not on the king of Prussia that this dishonor will rest, it is on the chief of his military council; it is on the general, who, in these difficult circumstances, gave the care of his affairs; it is, in short, the duke of Brunswick, that France and Russia will accuse as the cause of the war. The frenzy of which this old general gave the example, has inflamed a turbulent set of young men, and caused the king to act contrary to his own opinion and his intimate conviction."

"Always say to the inhabitants of the country of Brunswick, that they will find in the French generous enemies; that I wish, as regards them, to soften the rigors of war, and that the evils occasioned by the passage of troops is contrary to my will; say to the duke of Brunswick, that he will be treated with all the regard due to a Prussian officer, but that I cannot acknowledge a sovereign in a Prussian general."

"If it should happen that the house of Brunswick loses the sovereignty of its ancestors, the cause must be looked for in the author of two wars; in one of which he wished to sap even to the foundation, the great capital; and by the other pretended to dishonor 200,000 brave men which might be conquered, but which will never be found out of the road of honor and glory. Much blood has been shed within a few days, great disasters weigh heavily on the Prussian monarchy; how worthy of blame is this man, who, in a word, could have prevented them, if like Nestor, raising his voice in the midst of the council, he had said—"

"Inconsiderate youth, be silent; women, return to your work-bags and to the interior of your families; sirs, believe the companion of the most illustrious of your predecessors, since the emperor Napoleon does not wish for war, do not place him between war and dishonor; do not engage in a dangerous struggle with an army that has honored itself with fifteen years of glorious labors, and which victory has accustomed every thing to submit to."

"In place of holding this language, which agreed so well with the prudence of