

diplomatic agents of Spain, resident there, easily ascertained that he enjoyed the high regard and confidence of Mina; and, of course, it became important to gain over Correa to the interest of their sovereign. It is unnecessary to recount the various artifices employed to purchase the co-operation of this youth, and to induce him, in defiance of all the obligations of honour and gratitude, to lend himself to the infernal machinations of the oppressor of his own family; but the following plain statement of facts will shew how deeply he was implicated in the plan formed for the destruction of his friend and benefactor.

He accompanied the expedition to Galvezton. After being there a short time, in order to create an opportunity of fulfilling, to the letter, his new engagement, he made an attempt to excite a mutiny among Aury's troops, and had the address to seduce several of Aury's officers, as well as two of Mina's, and to influence them so as to promote the mutiny; but he did not, except to one individual, confide his real intention. Fortunately, however, one of Aury's officers disclosed the plot to the commodore, by whom the conspirators were instantly arrested. A court of inquiry was held on Mina's officers; but the general, conceiving it impo-

litic to punish them with the severity due to their offence, merely gave them a severe reprimand, and set them at liberty.

Correa, finding his first essay thus prove abortive, was soon convinced, by the contemptuous demeanour of Mina's officers, that it was impracticable for him a second time to foment an insurrection among the troops. To attempt the accomplishment of his designs singly, involved greater personal hazard than he dared to encounter. His longer stay at Galvezton was, therefore, useless. His present situation was also sufficiently unpleasant; and, accordingly, he became anxious to abandon the expedition, and eagerly embraced the opportunity of retiring from the island, in pursuance of an order to repair to New Orleans.

He had but just left the island, when Mina received letters from the United States, of which the substance was published in an order of the day, and caused, among the officers and soldiers of the division, one universal burst of indignation.

Correa afterwards reached Havana, where the captain-general of Cuba, by way of premium for his services to the Spanish government, gave him a situation in the revenue department. The last accounts state, that he is now a custom-house officer at Trinidad de Cuba.

How far the Chevalier Don Onis, then Spanish minister in the United States, might have been implicated in this business, the author knows not from any other than the preceding data; but he has been promised some authentic documents on the subject, and should they reach his hands, he will not hesitate to give them publicity.*

* From this confession of the Author himself, it is pretty clear, he possessed nothing but very unsatisfactory information as a ground-work for the charge here brought forward against Chevalier Onis as a principal, and young Correa as an accessory; since on this subject he says, "*he has been promised some authentic documents, and should they reach him, he pledges himself to give them publicity.*" It may therefore safely be presumed, that the charge has been made in a hasty and unwarrantable manner; and, indeed, this is the decided opinion of persons well versed in the affairs alluded to, and also acquainted with the parties. Whatever might be the diplomatic duties Chevalier Onis had to perform, it is clear, he never could have formed a design similar to the one here mentioned by the Author, particularly whilst he acted as a foreign minister near a free government, like that of the United States; and that young Correa was not implicated in such a transaction, his known character and principles, as well as the sufferings of his father, are a sufficient guarantee.

The dispute which took place between the troops of General Mina and those of Aury, so inconsiderately attributed to young Correa, arose out of the clashing elements of which they were composed, and the disparity of views in

The ministers of Spain, resident in foreign countries, have long been in the habit of accomplishing their views by the most refined intrigue, and certainly have not always been very delicate as to the means they have employed. Arrogant menaces, and secret promises, they have considered as component points in diplomacy. It may not be amiss, although a digression from our narrative, to insert here two letters, written some years ago, on the subject of Miranda's expedition, because they will illustrate the prevailing spirit and policy of the Spanish cabinet more clearly than an hundred ordinary anecdotes.

In the year 1806, Miranda conducted an expedition against the Spaniards in the north-west of the province of the Andes, and was opposed by the two leaders. Young Correa, who in the Spanish and Austrian army had served with great distinction during the whole of the last war, on his arrival at Galvezton, early saw, that with means so weak it was impossible for General Mina to succeed in his bold enterprise; and in this opinion he was confirmed by the dissensions and quarrels already existing among the officers, in which he had himself been implicated. He therefore determined to abandon the scheme, and in this he was justified by the circumstances in which he was placed. These reasons, and the testimony of respectable persons in this country, warrant the conclusion, that the author has been wrongly informed, and consequently that his statements on this subject are incorrect.

Note by the English Editor.

pedition against the province of Caracas, which failed. Several foreigners, who were engaged in it, fell into the hands of the Spanish government, among whom were some young Americans, belonging to distinguished families.

The Marquis de Casa Yrujo, then ambassador of Spain in the United States, received from the government of Caracas, a list of the names of those unfortunate prisoners, and immediately addressed to a friend of Colonel Smith, of New York, the following insidious letter:—

“ Philadelphia, June 28, 1806.

“ SIR,

“ I have just received from Caracas a list of the names of the Americans taken by the Spaniards, on board of Miranda's schooners. The name of *Smith* is twice found in it. I suspect the last to be the *son* of *Colonel Smith*, and *grandson* of *Mr. Adams*. Although I had some political difference with him when he was president, this circumstance has not deprived me of that particular regard and respect towards such a distinguished character, and particular consideration for his family. Not the least doubt exists, but the greater part of the prisoners will be put to death as pirates; and I should be very happy to be able, by a timely and immediate

interference, to save the life of the unfortunate youth, grandson to the venerable Mr. Adams and his worthy spouse. But, to render my intercession effectual, I would require, as the *only condition*, that Colonel Smith would disclose to me, through you, on his word of honour, *all the knowledge he has of Miranda's plans—of his intended points of attack—of the persons with whom he had connexions at Caracas—and the names of the Spaniards in this country, who shared in his scheme and expedition—in fact, all the material information he may be possessed of, and the knowledge of which may be useful to my government, and the preservation and tranquillity of the provinces Miranda had in view to revolutionize.*

“ As I remember your attachment for Mr. Adams, I take the liberty to make these suggestions to you, who, no doubt, will employ all means to relieve from affliction a worthy and disconsolate family; at all events, I expect from you a prompt and decisive answer on this head. I remain, sir, with particular regard and consideration,

“ Your obedient servant,

(Signed) “ MARQUIS DE CASA YRUJO.

“ To Mr. — —.”

The preceding letter was handed to Colonel Smith, who returned the following dignified and Roman-like answer:—

New York, June 30th, 1800.

“DEAR SIR,

“Accept my warmest acknowledgments for your very interesting communication of this date, presented by your son, accompanied by a letter from the Marquis de Casa Yrujo, which, after maturely considering, I return, agreeably to your request. I am sure I shall do justice to Mr. and Mrs. Adams, if in their name I thank the marquis for his very polite attention, in a case no doubt near, interesting, and affecting! I am sure, when I do him the justice to communicate his tender solicitude for their grandson, it will not fail to excite those sensibilities and acknowledgments, which the marquis is highly entitled to. For myself, not having the honour of his acquaintance, I have no right to expect other attention, or dignity of character, than what would naturally spring from his own mind, when making such an interesting communication.

“He informs me, he has just received from Caracas a list of the names of the Americans taken by the Spaniards, on board of Miranda’s

schooners; that the name of Smith is twice found in it; and he suspects the last to be my son, and grandson to Mr. Adams; and says, that he should be very happy, by a timely and immediate interference, to save the life of the unfortunate youth, grandson to the venerable Mr. Adams, and his worthy spouse; he having no doubt but the greatest part of the Americans will be put to death; but to render this intercession effectual, he requires, as the *only condition*, that I declare to him, through you, on my *word of honour*, all the knowledge I have of Miranda’s plans—of the points of attack—of the persons with whom he has connexions in the Caracas—and the names of the Spaniards in this country, who shared in his schemes and expedition—in fact, all the material information I may be possessed of, the knowledge of which may be useful to the Spanish government, for the promotion and preservation of tranquillity in the provinces Miranda had in view to revolutionize.

“When the marquis takes a dispassionate view of the circumstances connected with General Miranda’s visit to Washington, his subsequent visit here, and clearly ascertains that the persons accompanying him in the *Leander* were not informed of his projects and

plans, he will permit his benevolence to expand, and shelter all those taken in the schooners from harsh treatment and unmerited punishment, and will induce the government of his own country to view the question in other lights, than those which may tend to expose it to more serious animadversions than have been hitherto made, or to rousing the spirit of indignation and resentment, which, if once permitted to burst forth, cannot fail of being attended by strong marks of resentment.

“ With regard to my son, he was not made acquainted with the plans of Miranda; he went with him as a young companion, to share his fortune and his fate; he was accompanied by some of his friends, capable of deeds of hardihood and valour, worthy their leader—worthy their cause!

“ Whatever may be the situation and fate of the prisoners on board of the schooners, I can never tacitly sanction the lash of tyranny on his associates, and snatch my son from a participation in their fate, whatever it may be. Nothing but the marquis’s want of acquaintance with me can plead an excuse for the indelicacy of the proposition.

“ Do me the favour, my friend, to inform the marquis, that were I in my son’s situation,

I would not comply with his proposals to save myself, and would not cast so great an indignity on my son, my family, and myself, as to shelter him under the shield of disgrace.

“ I have no doubt the marquis will give such advice to the government of Caracas, and make such statement to his king (by whom I may have the honour to be personally recollected), as will induce them not to tarnish the dignified character of the Spanish nation, by an act of passion and barbarity, connected with the present case.

“ I am, dear sir, with respect,

“ Your friend and humble servant,
(Signed) “ WILLIAM S. SMITH.
“ To — — —”

Fortunately, the son of Colonel Smith was not among the hapless prisoners at that time in Caracas; but there is little doubt, that had he been there, he would have been sacrificed among the victims of Spanish cruelty who were executed at Puerto Cavello. He is now a resident of the city of Washington.

After the departure of Mina for New Orleans, as already mentioned, a serious difference arose between Commodore Aury, and Colonel Perry, who commanded a body of one hundred Ameri-

cans, in Aury's service. When Mina first landed, Perry determined, with his men, to quit the service of Aury, and join the standard of Mina. This intention was soon discovered by the commodore, who tried various means to dispossess Perry of his command; he at length, on the 1st of March, arrested him and Captain Gordon, making prisoners of them in his own quarters. This act produced an open rupture. Perry's men, on being informed that their colonel was thus arrested, sent word to the commodore, that they were determined to defend him to the last, and for that purpose beat to arms. To oppose this party, Aury drew up the men whom he thought were in his interest, about eighty in number, principally coloured men, under the command of Colonel Savary, with one field-piece. During this disgraceful scene in Aury's camp, Mina's division was not inactive. Colonel Montilla placed sentries so as to cut off the communication between the encampments; a supply of ammunition was delivered, and the division was kept under arms. This altercation, however, fortunately terminated without bloodshed. Perry was liberated; he and his men were allowed by the commodore to join the standard they preferred, as well as such others of the

commodore's troops as might deem proper so do to. Colonel Perry accordingly placed himself under the orders of Mina.

While the general was at New Orleans, he had frequent interviews with the gentlemen who had proposed the project of an expedition against Pensacola. But he soon discovered that it was merely a mercantile speculation, from which no advantage would result in favour of his views on Mexico; indeed, all the propositions made to him, while at New Orleans, were widely different from his own plans. As a soldier and a patriot, he disliked to war for mercenary considerations, and he was most decidedly hostile to all predatory projects. He purchased, at New Orleans, a ship (the Cleopatra) for a transport, to replace the ship with which he left England, having given her up according to agreement.

Having likewise made arrangements for the purchase of another ship, the Neptune, he set sail for Galvezton, taking with him a few European and American officers. Upon his arrival, on the 16th of March, he found the division embarked, and ready for sailing.

In consequence of not having received any definite information of a place at which he could unite with any part of Victoria's forces, and as

the whole line of coast was in possession of the royalists, he resolved to proceed to a town called *Soto la Marina*, on the river Santander, in the colony of that name. This was a point at which the descent was least expected by the royalists; the enemy having conjectured that the general meditated effecting a landing in the northern parts of the province of Vera Cruz, for the purpose of forming a junction with *Victoria*. They had therefore concentrated a body of troops in the vicinity of *Tuspan*, a central situation, from whence they could quickly march to the invaded point, and crush *Mina* at the outset.

During the time the division was at *Galvezton*, some of the officers had resigned, and received passports to leave the island; Colonel *Montilla*, and two other officers of *Caracas*, also embarked for *New Orleans*.

While the fleet was waiting a wind, two brigs, the one a prize to a Mexican privateer, the other to a *Buenos Ayres* cruizer, laden with jerked beef and rice, were brought in for condemnation. As there was not leisure to attend to their business, it was determined that they should proceed with the expedition. The division was distributed among the vessels; and, the wind coming from the northward, the fleet,

on the 27th of March, made sail. It consisted of the following vessels:—

An armed schooner—Commodore *Aury*, having on board the company of artillery, and the cavalry, under Colonel the Count De *Ruuth*.

Cleopatra (transport)—Captain *Hooper*, the general and staff, Guard of Honour, and first regiment of the line.

Two prize brigs—Regiment of the Union, Colonel *Perry*.

Neptune (store-ship)—Captain *Wisset*, commissariat and stores.

Schooner Ellen Tooker—on a trading voyage: she arrived as the fleet was getting under weigh, and agreed to accompany the expedition.

A small sloop—Captain *Williams*.

The force of the division, on board the fleet, including all those in any manner attached to it, the sailors, mechanics, and servants, was three hundred.

Soon after sailing, it came on to blow heavily from the westward, which threatened a long run; and it was also discovered that the *Cleopatra* had not the necessary provisions on board. The general had confided in the reports made

by the then commissary, Bianchi, and the captain of the ship; and presumed, that, agreeably thereto, stores had been shipped. Supplies were however obtained from the cargo of the prize brig: but on the arrival of the fleet off the Rio Grande del Norte, the water was nearly expended. As the weather had moderated, the general resolved to endeavour to procure supplies there, and the fleet ran in and anchored off the mouth of the river. A serjeant's guard had been stationed there by the royalists, for the purpose, as was understood, of preventing privateers from watering. Major Sardá and some other officers, who volunteered, were sent on shore to ascertain if supplies could be procured. As the fleet had hoisted Spanish colours, and as Major Sardá, the commander of the party, was a Spaniard, the guard supposed the fleet to be Spanish, bound to Vera Cruz. The boats had free access to the river to obtain water; and the soldiers of the guard drove up some cattle, which were wild, and in great abundance. The bar of the Rio Grande is very shoal, and it was with great difficulty that a small supply of water could be got off, owing to the danger of the bar. A boat belonging to Commodore Aury's schooner was upset among the breakers, and a Spanish officer, Lieutenant

Dallares, was unfortunately lost. This young Spaniard, to whom Mina had been a benefactor, and who had left England with him, was one of the few of his countrymen that had adhered to the general to the last. Mina was much attached to him, and deeply regretted the accident which had deprived him of a warm friend. Four men also, belonging to the fleet, deserted and hid themselves in the woods; they afterwards presented themselves to the enemy, to whom they gave every information.

As soon as the vessels had obtained a sufficient supply of fresh beef and water, to carry the expedition to the intended point, the fleet made sail, with the wind at south-east; but it soon afterwards shifted to the westward, and blew a gale, in which the vessels were dispersed. The troops on board the *Cleopatra*, whose stores were less ample than those of the other vessels, were thereby placed in a disagreeable situation. The fresh beef would not last more than twenty-four hours, and the prize brig, which had hitherto supplied their wants, was not in sight. The stores were soon reduced to a small quantity of bread, and a keg of almonds, and as the weather continued bad, it became absolutely necessary to put every one on short allowance. Accordingly, half a biscuit, and a