

# THE BRITISH-AMERICAN REGISTER.

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## PUBLIC PAPERS.

*Translation of a letter from the Marquis de Casa Yrujo to the Secretary of State of the United States of America.*

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1803.

SIR,

When you represented to me towards the end of November last, that the port of New-Orleans had been shut against the citizens of the United States, without the assignment of any equivalent place of deposit for their merchandize on the Banks of the Mississippi, according to the stipulation in the 22d article of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation between the King my master and the U. States, I did not hesitate to declare to you that I considered this measure, as flowing solely from the mistaken zeal of the Intendant of Louisiana, without the approbation and even without the knowledge of my court. I well knew the sincere desire of the King, my master, to live in peace and good harmony with the U. States; as I also knew well the scrupulous good faith with which the Spanish government fulfills the engagements which it forms, particularly when they are founded on the solemnity of a Treaty.

I have now the satisfaction of informing you that my first opinion has been verified, and of declaring in the most positive terms, that the proclamation of the Intendant is an act purely personal, without the sanction and even without the knowledge of his Catholic Majesty. In reality, if the said proclamation had appeared

here in an entire state, no doubt could have taken place as to the source of this proceeding; But the operative part thereof alone has circulated through the United States, the preamble introducing it, having been, probably without design, omitted.

I have therefore the honor to communicate herewith an entire and correct copy of the aforesaid proclamation; and by the expressions which I have underlined, it will be clearly seen that the arrangement is absolutely personal, and has originated in the faculties which the Intendant supposed to be incident to his station.

This assertion is not founded merely on the obvious inference from those expressions: The intendant himself declares it to me in the most direct terms in a letter of January 15th, which I have just received from him; and the Governor of the Province confirms the same thing with the same solemnity in another letter of the same date. Neither the one, nor the other dispute the right of the citizens of the Western States to a place of deposit on the Spanish banks of the Mississippi: but the Intendant thinks, that the term of three years allowed for the purpose at New-Orleans, having expired, and much prejudice to the royal interests being experienced from its continuance in that City, it was incumbent on him to suspend the deposit there, without venturing to take on himself, the assignment of another equivalent place; not because he doubted the right of the inhabitants of the United States thereto; but because it appeared to him to be an act exceeding his au-