

from sundry merchants in the United States. From a cursory examination of these claims, I was induced to believe that a considerable sum might be recovered, and I therefore flattered myself that there existed some chance of indemnification for my trouble and perseverance.

Soon becoming reconciled to my disappointment, and burying it in the oblivion which screened such a multitude of its predecessors, I passed the time very agreeably at Madrid, in visiting the numerous objects of interest with which that city abounds, the result of which was given to the public soon after my return, through the medium of the Literary Gazette, of Boston, edited by J. G. Carter, Esq.

The *ci-devant* Viceroy of Peru (Pezuela,) hearing of my being in the city, sent a messenger to me with an invitation to his house. I went, therefore, in conformity, and was received by him with the cordiality of an old friend. He inquired how my various mercantile operations had resulted, and evinced an interest in my affairs which was as pleasing as it was unexpected. His inquiries for Captain Biddle, and his expressions of friendship for him were made with an earnestness of manner which left no doubt of the esteem and regard he cherished for that distinguished officer. To the hospitality of our worthy minister, Mr. Nelson, and to that of the family of Mr. Rich, I was indebted for the most agreeable social hours I passed at Madrid.

Taking leave of my kind friends at Madrid, I returned to Bordeaux by the same route I had passed over before, excepting not revisiting San Sebastian. On ascertaining at Bordeaux that no opportunity would occur for the United States for some weeks, I took the Diligence for Paris, where, after passing a week, I proceeded to Havre, and took passage in the Edward Quesnel for New York, and arrived there in the month of April, 1825.

The agency for the collection of another's debts is an unacceptable service, more especially when they are of a description susceptible of controversy; but in this instance there existed more than the usual inducement, for I hoped thus to cancel the debt due me. Upwards of one hundred thousand dollars were claimed of a Boston merchant, the justice of which he denied, and refused to pay any part of it. A demand on a merchant at Baltimore, for a much less amount, was equally unsuccessful. The only debt acknowledged by the sig-