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“ Monday, March 5th.

“ News came from London this week that four or five men were taken up at Margate, trying to escape to France with some plot; for that, having come to Dover, they put their baggage on a cart, and followed it themselves on foot towards Margate—offered immense sums—seemed to know the way—that many odd things caused suspicion, and they were apprehended. One of them said he was Arthur O'Connor, and going abroad with the other gentleman: that on the cart was found boxes with papers expressive of their being a sort of ambassadors, from the U. I. M.\* to the Directory at Paris, to give assurances of the good reception the French would meet with in Ireland, and to *press* their immediate coming. The gentlemen denied the baggage was theirs. They were carried to the privy council, and put into the Tower.

“ This is all the substance I have gleaned from the little I have heard; and, on the other hand, it is *since* said that all these suspicious circumstances are a fabrication,

\* United Irishmen.