

vinces of South and Central Mexico, and had worked up a great propaganda. Apart from the fear of Yankee republicans and English parliaments concerning the imperial programme of Louisiana, he knew that the United States would like to acquire Louisiana to secure the entrance of the Mississippi and that England was greedy for the carrying trade of South America. So far as may be learned from his history he was a hypocrite, and not above the capability of doing any infamy for money. He had been expelled from France, where even the infamy of the leading revolutionists saw so much of the greater rascal in him as to cause them to be so jealous for their own laurels in this particular as to make it too hot for him. But he was well received by the Congress of the United States and the British Parliament, both of which bodies listened to his disclosures against the royalists, and adopted his plans of wresting from the house of Bourbon the Spanish domains in America, although at that time (1798) Spain was at peace with these powers. John Adams was president, and although the English held so high an opinion of him that it has been concentrated in the phrase of "Canning" that "scoundrel Adams," the mutual dislike of both nations did not prevent their approachment for the spoliation of Spanish dominion. England was to furnish the naval force and quantities of arms and munitions and to operate against the Spanish in South America, and the United States was to furnish troops and have as their share of the plunder Louisiana and the basin of the Mississippi.

The jealousy of Spanish laws permitted only one British ship a year to enter certain ports of her South American provinces; the royalists were threatening to divide the United States; these were the pretexts of the two countries. Plausible and flexible Miranda obtained some credit in England. He was able to show that a revolution to "liberate" the provinces of South America from Spain had quite a following and their independence would lead there to British commercial supremacy. He was equally successful in winning favor in the United States by showing that Yankee aid to his scheme would be paid for by the possession of the Mississippi, with Louisiana and other places on the Mexican Gulf. He hoped to get a bag of plunder himself. As early as the presidency of John Adams the government of the two countries had approached each

other with an understanding to be embarrassed of a common foe by taking Louisiana themselves.

In regard to this union of Britain and the United States against the legitimists in 1798 and for spoils, Miranda and the Yankees had an ulterior motive 'to reduce every class and race to a mongrel level and to republicanize the continent. England agreed to furnish "A train of artillery, clothing for 25,000 men, swords, pikes, tents, telescopes and other general munitions of warfare." The United States was to send "7,000 men to assist in accomplishing the plan."

Feb. 15, 1798, President Adams requested the opinion of his cabinet on the subject. Attorney-General McHenry believed that "A formal treaty ought to be avoided, but that Great Britain might be prevailed on to vest ample authority in her ambassador to the United States for necessary co-operation."

The possibility of a war with France and Spain on this account caused Congress to order a large increase in the army. Washington was appointed commander-in-chief, with Alex. Hamilton as next in authority. The equipment of 12 regiments was begun in the West with rendez-vous at Fort Washington (Cincinnati). Here flat boats were constructed for their transportation down to Louisiana. At this time Miranda wrote Hamilton: "It seems that the time of our emancipation draws near and that the establishment of liberty (?) in the whole continent of the New World is intrusted to us by Providence." (!) (Noble abstractions for such noble designs!)

Aug. 22, 1798, Hamilton wrote Miranda: "It was my wish that matters had been ripened for a co-operation in the course of this fall, on the part of this country. . . . The winter may mature the project and the effectual co-operation of the United States may take place. In this case I shall be happy, in my official station, to be an instrument of so much good." (!)

Again Aug. 23, 1798, Hamilton wrote Rufus King, U.S. minister to England; "In regard to the enterprise in question, I wish it much to be undertaken, but I should be glad that the principal agency was the United States—they to furnish the whole land force, if necessary. The command in this case would naturally fall on me, and I hope I should disappoint no favorable anticipation."

But the plot was known soon in France and Napoleon intervened and obtained the province from Spain.