

fore mentioned provinces, Don Nimesio Salcedo, likewise produced a small trunk which he brought with him,* and that in the presence of the undersigned, opened himself, and took out different books and papers, when having separated with his own hands, under our cognizance, all that appeared to be, or that he said was private, or had no connection with the voyage; delivered the remainder to the demand of the commandant general, which were solely those comprehended in the foregoing inventory which we have formed, and for the verification of which we have signed these presents at Chihuahua, the 8th of April, 1807.

(Signed)

FRANCISCO VALASCO.

JUAN PEDRO WALKER.

Translated from the original, by Z. M. Pike, captain.

[No. 17.]

Chihuahua, April 4th, 1807.

SIR,

I HOPE your excellency may not attribute it to presumption, or a disposition to intrude when I address you on a subject foreign from my official duties, and on which I can only speak as an individual, but I should feel myself wanting in humanity, and that attention which every man owes to his fellow creatures in distress should I remain silent; and more especially when those who are compatriots and some former companions, now in a strange country, languishing out their days, far from their friends and relations, without scarcely a dawn of hope remaining of ever again being blest with the view of their native homes. It is scarcely necessary to add that I allude to the unfortunate companions of Nolan, who having entered the territories of his catholic majesty in a clandestine manner, equally in violation of the treaties between the two governments, the laws of the United States and those of Spain, could not be reclaimed or noticed by their country; yet from every information I have received on the subject, the men of the party were innocent, believing that Nolan had passports from the Spanish governor to carry on the traffic of horses. I pretend not to justify the many irregularities of their conduct since in the Spanish dominions, but hope that it may

* The want of candor exhibited in the certificate is manifest, and was an imbecile attempt to shew that all my actions were voluntary, and that in the delivery of my papers there was no degree of constraint.