

fluence of the British Parliament in Canada, using the Royal prerogative, the French seigneurs were placed in a most peculiar situation. Through their efforts alone, in the field, although abandoned by their tenants, they and theirs had stood in arms in 1775-6 and beat back the Yankee invaders at the beginning of the American revolution and had saved Canada to the British Crown. They had done this duty as feudatories of the Crown, fulfilling the obligations which they had entered into by treaty in 1763 on condition that the Crown would fulfill its obligation to them. And here the English House of Parliament in Canada, clearly in line with its policy of using the Royal prerogative to wrest tribute from the colonies without recognizing the rights of the Crown and the noblesse in the colonies, had raised up a political party of its own in order to deprive the seigneurs of their legitimate authority and pre-eminence.

The opposition of the English parliament and the democracy in Canada to the French aristocracy and the communication of this aristocracy with its offshoot in Louisiana led to a plan in 1798 in New Orleans to wrest Canada from the abasing tyranny of this domination and unite it with Louisiana into one state, in the Spanish Empire, as it had been derived from that of the Emperor Charles V in the XVI century.

In 1798 the most important personage in Louisiana was the Chevalier Pierre Denys de la Ronde, Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Louisiana, commander of the forces, and "Alcade del Cabildo." His elegant manor house "Versailles," was at Algiers, opposite New Orleans, some vestiges of which are said to be yet visible. His father had come from Canada as a major of the French marines sent into Louisiana from that province, where he was of the Seigneural Order and a Knight of the Order of St. Louis. His grandfather was Louis Denys, Sieur de la Ronde, who had been lieutenant-governor of Acadia, and a brother of the great de Bonnaventure. Colonel de la Ronde was related also to the leading Spanish families in New Orleans, especially through the marriage of his sister Louise to Don Andre Almonaster Y Roxas, who had been colonel of the Royal Regiment, commander of the forces, Knight of the Order of King Charles III, and Alcade del Cabildo, who had founded the St. Louis Cathedral, the palace of justice, the presbytery and several schools and hospitals. Col. de la Ronde had succeeded him as the front

and leader of all the aristocracy of Louisiana.

Now it seems that there were in the United States at this time, a great many persons, former royalists, and others, who were dissatisfied already with the hypocrisy, cynicism and corruption of the imposed republic and its guardian horde of republican blatherskites. Especially was this feeling strong and openly spoken in those places adjacent to the former French posts along the Mississippi from Detroit, and St. Louis southward. Whether there were any of the Stuart adherents, who had invited the royal heir to America in 1776, at the beginning of the colonial struggle against the English parliament that had begun to use, unconstitutionally in the colonies, prerogatives which belong to the Crown alone, and which all the colonies disputed to the parliament, but recognized to the Crown, cannot be said. But the principal one of these former royalists who joined the French and Spanish party with numerous others at this time, was Col. John Connolly, of Detroit.

Col. Connolly had been a royalist officer in the war of 1776, holding commission under Lord Dunmore, of Virginia. He had raised the Royal Forrester Regiment for the King in 1872, and out of his woods and fields has grown the present city of Pittsburgh. With other Royalists scattered over the various states, but more especially among those of his former acquaintance in the Valley of the Ohio, along the borders of Kentucky, Virginia and where Pennsylvania meets these states, he gathered the beginning of a determined band, resolute, faithful, and disgusted with the lies, treachery and row down villainy of the rising republicans. These circumstances and disturbances led them to a union. It seems that in 1796 the treaty which Spain signed with Holland excited the fears of the English, especially as the former French monarch, the King of Spain and the court of Holland had recognized the Stuart heir as the rightful King of England. With the royalists in Louisiana communicating with the royalists in Canada and the United States, the entire affair had a suspicious look, and England prepared for war.

Now there happened on the scene at this time one Miranda, born in the Spanish province of Venezuela, who had served in the American revolution and afterwards was a general in the armies of revolutionary France. He was desirous of propagating revolutionary doctrines as a financial investment in the Spanish pro-