National Intelligencer.

& WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. VII. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. NO. 1097.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1807. *PAID IN ADVANCE.*

FROM THE ENQUIRER.

Treason operates on the morals as the leprosy does on the body. It taints all; corrupts all—corrodes and destroys all. As the leprosy viciates the animal system and pollutes every salubrious principle of life—so treason demoralizes the heart, poisons the fountains of virtue, and extinguishes all sense of political integrity or private rectitude.

Hard indeed is the fate of him, who having resisted the lures of corruption, sees his character assassinated by the hand of the tempter, whose seductive arts he repulsed.

The following documents are submitted to the reader without a comment:

NEW-YORK, Sept 24.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of veracity and honor, to his friend in this city, dated Richmond, 17th Sept. 1807.

"The following facts may be relied on, and embraces nearly all the circumstances of the horrid plot, which had for its object the death of Mr. Duncan, and the ruin of Col. Burr's reputation.

"Some time between the 20th and 27th of August, Mr. Duncan, formerly one of gen. Wilkinson's aids at New-Orleans, and now a witness here on the part of government, discovered a plot to poison him, by mixing laudanum with his porter, of which he usually drank when going to bed. A negro man, the property and servant of Mr. D. was apprehended, committed and confessed the fact. On further examination before a magistrate, he charged a person by the name of Kinney, as his accomplice, whom he said had incited him to the act by the promise of a reward of seven hundred dollars, and a horse, if he succeeded. Kinney, however, has never been examined, nor have the magistrates who were present at the examination and confession of the negro, taken any measures to bring him to punishment. This Kinney was brought from New-Orleans by Wilkinson as a witness against Burr; and the circumstance of their being frequently seen together in private and earnest conversation, and their great intimacy, caused suspicion to attach to the general.

"About 10 days after the discovery of the plot, the grand jury for the body of Richmond summoned Wilkinson before them—but on the receipt of the summons, the general took the alarm, left the city on horseback at night, accompanied by a servant, and both armed with swords and pistols; nor did he return until the jury were discharged. Pressing private business, and the indisposition of some of the members of the jury, prevented them from setting until they could bring this prince of villains before them. And he returned to town the day after they were discharged. Duncan, in the mean time, was examined, and was the only material witness against the negro: without being able, however, from any personal knowledge, to connect him with either the gen. or Kinney, but gave it as his opinion, that Kinney had instigated him to this deed for the purpose of getting possession of his money, of which the negro knew nearly the amount, and where it was deposited. Some of the witnesses who swore to the intimacy between Wilkinson and Kinney, described them as bottle companions; and Kinney himself, as if proud of this distinction, has frequently boasted among his companions, "that he and the Gen. were on the most intimate and friendly terms, and that they frequently got quite blue together over the bottle." This intimacy and brotherly affection between them, first excited a suspicion against Gen. Wilkinson, and made him by construction, a partner in the crime; a suspicion which he endeavored to cast upon Col. B. but which has recoiled upon himself, and has fastened itself so strong upon him, that he will never be able to shake it off. There is no longer a doubt who was the prime mover in this conspiracy. Wilkinson's absence when the jury were in session, was enough to fix it on him, but a recent and strong circumstance has confirmed it, and placed it beyond a doubt.

"Mr. Duncan became uneasy after this attempt, and requested col. Burr to take his affidavit, which he finally did, after Mr. Hay had agreed to admit it in court. In this affidavit Mr. Duncan states:—"*That he was present at N. Orleans, last winter, when Wilkinson decyphered the letter, said to have been received from Burr; that he saw him erase and alter the original, and then forge a letter which he "swore on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, and the honor of a soldier," was a true and faithful copy of the original. When he, Duncan, advised, and was present at the forgery and perjury.*" This affidavit Col. Burr has now in his possession, and furnishes, among other matters of great interest, a clue to the poisoning scene.

"The public will judge for themselves by this detail. The universal opinion here, however, is, that Wilkinson either designed to take Duncan's life to save himself from exposure, or else, by destroying Duncan, to have cast the suspicion of the catastrophe on Col. Burr. His honor and his honesty, in this affair, however, have breathed their last—He has sunk to the lowest depth of degradation and infamy, and the body of his sins, like the corpse of a malefactor, is given over for public dissection."

—

Extract of a letter from Jonathan Thompson to his friend in this city, dated New-York, Oct. 6, 1807.

"About 1 o'clock P. M. of Tuesday the 6th Oct. I called on Messrs. Lang and Turner at the office of the New-York Gazette—several persons being present, a few minutes elapsed, (and one or two of the persons withdrew) when Mr. Thompson remarked to Mr. Lang, he wished to speak a few words with him and Mr. Turner; Mr. Lang called Mr. Turner, and we retired from the office to an adjoining room. Mr. Thompson introduced the subsequent conversation by observing—Messrs. Lang and Turner; there appeared in your paper, a few days since, an extract of a letter from Richmond respecting gen. Wilkinson. Mr. Lang acknowledged it. Mr. Thompson continued, I am authorised to ask of you the name of the person who handed it you for publication. Mr. Lang hesitated, and requested time to see the gentleman: Mr. Thompson remarked, that he wanted an answer to that question first, and then had another to make: Mr. Lang asked, if authorised by Gen. Wilkinson, and was answered in the affirmative: Mr. Turner said he was of opinion that they (Lang and Turner) were at liberty to give the name: Mr. Lang conceded, and gave the name of Robert Swartwout, who, he said, was responsible for its publication. Mr. Turner remarked, he had the manuscript about him, and felt in his pocket but did not shew it, he said it was in Mr. Robert Swartwout's hand writing. Mr. Thompson then asked for the name of the author of the letter, who, Mr. Lang said, was Mr. Samuel Swartwout, Robert's Brother: That at the time the extract was handed to him for publication, Mr. Robert Swartwout shewed them the original letter, which, he said, contained other matter. After having obtained the foregoing particulars we took our leave."

Having seen in the New-York Gazette and General Advertiser of the 24th Sept. last, a letter from some person dated in Richmond, 17th of the same month, directed to his correspondent in New-York, wherein he describes the circumstances, attending the attempt made by Mr. Duncan's servant, to administer laudanum to his master in a glass of porter; the description given by the author of the above letter, is so evidently calculated to prejudice gen. Wilkinson in the estimation of those who are acquainted with the circumstances, that I think it my duty to state the facts as they appeared before me, who examined the servant in my character as a justice of the peace for the county of Henrico; the examination took place in the room of Mr. Duncan.

Upon being shewn the tumbler glass which contained the mixture, it was evident that it was strongly impregnated with laudanum.—Doctor Greenhow was called in, who gave it as his opinion, that it contained a great portion of laudanum; and two gentlemen who lodged in the room with Mr. Duncan, proving the attempt to have been made in their presence by the servant of Mr. Duncan, I inquired of the servant what he had to say in his defence. After some prevarication, he confessed to have been prevailed on to do it by the offers of a man who called himself Kenney; that he said Kenney at sundry times had given him money, and offered him seven hundred dollars if he would effect it, which would purchase his freedom, to which he is said to have consented, but that he had not put all the laudanum into the glass, and produced the remaining part, which was concealed under the porch of the house in which Mr. Duncan lodged; whereupon I committed him to jail, to be tried by the court of the county. He was accordingly tried in court; but Mr. Duncan having left Richmond, and the confession of the servant before the examining magistrate being considered by the court inadmissible testimony on his trial, he was acquitted. Some days after the examination of the servant before me, I was applied to by Mr. Duncan for a warrant against Kenney, but as there were no testimony, save that of the slave, I refused to grant a warrant.

The grand jury for the Richmond district convened about this time, and had the case of Kenney under consideration; but for the want of testimony, brought in no presentment against him.

Gen. Wilkinson was not examined before me, because not lodging in the room with Duncan but in another part of the house, he could say nothing as to the attempt made by the servant nor was he present at the examination, so that he could not say any thing as to the confession of the servant, consequently he was not called on by the court of Henrico, nor was he (as I understand by several members of the grand jury,) called on to give testimony before them.

Given under my hand this 3d of Oct. 1807.

(Signed)

MILES SELDEN.

City of Richmond, to wit:

Sworn to before me this 7th day of Oct. 1807.

(Signed)

WM. RICHARDSON, Mayor.

—

Some time in the month of August last, I was informed by Abner L. Duncan, Esq. of New Orleans, (then in this city), that a few evenings before, an attempt had been made on his life, with a large quantity of laudanum, which was handed him by his own servant, in a glass of Porter, after he had got into bed; and that the proportion of laudanum was so great, he discovered it before he drank. Mr. Duncan observed, his servant had confessed the fact, and produced the phial with a part of the laudanum, and said he had been influenced to commit the act, by the alternate threats, persuasions and bribes of a man by the name of Kinney. Mr. Duncan appeared very desirous of ascertaining the truth of his servant's story, and expressed his strong belief, that some of Burr's emissaries were at the bottom of the attempt; for the purpose of getting clear of his testimony.

On hearing this statement, I received of Mr. Duncan the phial, containing the remainder of the laudanum, and undertook to trace from whence it came, by going to the several apothecary shops in this city. On making my enquiries, I was generally informed, the laudanum which I presented, did not agree with that of the apothecary, for that mine was made of apple, and their's of French brandy. This remark being so generally made, I was struck with the distinction, and called a second time upon those who had not made the distinction; in doing so, I found but at one apothecary's, (Mr. Duval's) where it was admitted their laudanum to have been made with apple brandy. On renewing my enquiries, one of the young gentlemen in the shop, remarked, that since my first enquiries, he had recollected selling, but a few evenings before, an ounce of laudanum to a man, whose name he did not know, but that he had frequently seen him since, in company with a man by the name of Love, and should know him again, should he see him. At this time I had no knowledge of this Kinney, and of course could not describe him. The evening of the day of this enquiry, I was walking down the street, below Doctor Duval's shop, in company with captain Walback, when we passed an ill-looking man, and having gone a few steps, the captain observed, that man was Kinney, and requested of me to return to Duval's shop and get the young gentleman to say if that was the man he alluded to; I did so, and was within ten yards of Kinney when he passed the shop: the young gentleman having discovered him as he (Kinney) passed, came to the door, and was viewing him, when I came up, and before I had time to speak, he observed, (pointing at Kinney) "that is the man I sold the phial of laudanum to." This same man has frequently since been pointed out to me as a witness in the charges of the United States against Aaron Burr, and by the name of Kinney. To these facts I am willing to swear, and now give them from under my hand at Richmond, this tenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seven.

WM. PRICE.

GEN. JAMES WILKINSON.

FROM THE AMERICAN CITIZEN.

Scalping!—The ensuing extraordinary paper, is copied from pages 85 and 86 of the "Medical Repository for May, June, and July, 1807," edited by Drs. Mitchell and Miller. If the reader peruses it without indignation and horror, he can have no envie of his feelings. The editors are entitled to the thanks of the community for procuring and embodying in their excellent work, this singular dispatch. At the present moment, when, I think, we are on the eve of a war with England, it will be found peculiarly interesting.

"*Method of writing practised by the Seneca Indians of New York.*

"During the revolutionary war, all the six nations of Iroquois, except the Oneidas joined the enemy. The behavior of the Mohawks, Onondagos, Senecas, Cayugas, and Tuscaroras, was so murderous and destructive, that the famous expedition against them under gen. Sullivan was made. This broke their force, and they never rallied afterwards. But their savage cruelty against the peaceful farmers and their families at Wyoming, Cherry Valley, and along the Mohawk river, will be long remembered.

"While these horrible barbarities were practised against the husbandmen on the frontiers, a parcel of peltry was taken from the hostile Indians by the troops which were employed against them. Of this the following account was given by captain Gerrish, of the New England militia, in a dispatch dated Albany, March, 7, 1782."

"*Extract from captain Gerrish's Letter.*

"The peltry taken in the expedition will, as you see, amount to a great deal of money. The possession of this booty at first gave us pleasure;—but we were struck with horror to find among the packages, eight large ones, containing scalps of our unhappy country folks, taken in the 3 last years by the Seneca Indians, from the inhabitants of the frontiers of N. York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, & sent by them as a present to col. Haldimand, gov. of Canada, in order, to be by him transmitted to England.—They were accompanied by the following curious letter to that gentleman:"

"*Major Crawford's letter to governor Haldimand of Quebec.*

"TIOGA, JAN. 3, 1778.

"*May it please your excellency,*

"At the request of the Seneca chiefs, I send herewith to your excellency, under the care of James Boyd, eight packs of scalps, cured, dried, hooped, and painted, with all the Indian triumphal marks, of which the following is an explanation:

"No. 1. Containing 43 scalps of Congress soldiers, killed at different skirmishes: these are stretched on black hoops, 4 inches in diameter; the inside of the skin painted red, with a small black spot, to note their being killed with bullets—also 62 farmers killed in their houses—the hoops red, the skin painted brown, and marked with a hoe; a black circle all round, to denote their being surprised in the night—and a black hatchet in the middle, to denote their being killed with that weapon.

"No. 2. Containing 98 of farmers', killed in their houses; hoops red, figure of a hoe, to mark their profession—great white circle and sun, to show they were surprised in the day time; a little red foot, to show they stood on their defence, and died fighting for their lives and families.

"No. 3. Containing 97 of farmers'—hoops green, to show they were killed in the fields; a large white circle, with a little round mark on it for the sun, to show it was in the day time—black bullet mark on some, hatchets on others.

"No. 4. Containing 102 farmers'—mixed of the several marks above; only 18 marked with a yellow flame, to denote their being of prisoners burnt alive, after being scalped, their nails pulled out by the roots, and other torments; one of these latter, supposed to be a rebel clergyman, his hand being fixed to the hoop of his scalp. Most of our farmers appear by the hair to have been young or middled aged men; there being but 67 very grey heads among them all—*which makes the service more essential.*

"No. 5. Containing 81 scalps of women; hair long, and braided in the Indian fashion, to show they were mothers; hoops blue, skin yellow, ground with little red tadpoles, to represent by way of triumph, the tears of grief occasioned by their relations; a black scalping knife or hatchet at the bottom, to mark their being killed with those instruments. Seventeen others, hair very grey, black hoops, plain brown color; no mark but the short club or the cassatete, to show that they were kocked down dead, or had their brains knocked out.

"No. 6. Containing 193 boys' scalps of various ages: small green hoops, whitish ground on the skin, with red tears in the middle, and black bullet marks, knife, hatchet, or club, as their deaths happened.

"No. 7. 211 girls' scalps, big and little; small yellow hoops, white ground, tears, hatchet, club, scalping-knife, &c.

"No. 8. This package is a mixture of all the varieties above mentioned, to the number of 122; with a box of birch bark, containing 29 little infants' scalps of various sizes; small white hoops, white ground, no tears, and only a little black knife in the middle, to show they were ripped out of their mothers' bodies.

"With these packets the chiefs send to your excellency the following speech, delivered by Conciogatchie, in council, interpreted by the elder Moore, the trader, and taken down by me in writing."

"SPEECH

"*Of the Senecas to gov. Haldimand.*

"*Father*—We send you herewith many scalps, that you may see that we are not idle friends. (A blue belt.)

"*Father*—We wish you to send these scalps over the waters to the *great king*, that he may regard them *and be refreshed*, and that he may see our faithfulness in destroying his enemies, and be convinced that his presents have not been made to ungrateful people. (A blue and white belt with red tassels.)

"*Father*—Attend to what I am now going to say—it is a matter of much weight. The great king's enemies are many, and they grow many, and they grow fast in number. They were formerly like young panthers; they could neither bite nor scratch; we could play with them safely; we feared nothing they could do to us. But now their bodies are becoming big as the elk, and strong as the buffaloe;—they have also got great and sharped claws. They have driven us out of our country, for taking part in your quarrel. We expect the great king will give us another country, that our children may live after us, and be his friends and children as we are. Say this for us to the great king. To enforce it we give this belt. (A great white belt with blue tassels.)

"*Father*—We have only to say further, that your traders exact more than ever for their goods; and our hunting is lessened by the war, so that we have fewer skins to give for them. This ruins us. Think of some remedy. We are poor, and you have plenty of every thing. We know you will send us powder and guns, knives and hatchets; but we also want shirts and blankets." (A little white belt.)

"I do not doubt but your excellency will think it proper to give some further encouragement to those honest people. The high prices they complain of are the necessary effect of the war. Whatever presents may be sent for them through my hands, shall be