

CHAPTER XIX.

1815 AND 1816.

PROJECT OF AN EXPEDITION—DIFFICULTIES TO ITS PROGRESS AT JAMAICA—THE SPANIARDS PLOT AGAINST THE LIFE OF BOLIVAR—DEATH OF ANESTOI—HISTORY OF THIS EVENT—BOLIVAR AT LOS CATOS—PETION—OBSTACLES TO THE EXPEDITION—BOLIVAR APPOINTED TO ITS COMMAND—HE BIDS FAREWELL TO PETION AND MARION—GRATITUDE TO THE MEMORY OF THE IMMORTAL PETION.

ABSORBED with the arduous cares of the defence and protection of America, the Liberator did not neglect that which was of most consequence to her liberty, viz: to form an expedition, and along with the exiles and some of the officers who wished to join the undertaking, to land on the shores of Venezuela, and recommence vigorously the struggle.

Patriotism was more conspicuous in such a project than prudence. It was a pleasing deception, admired for its heroism, but which, on being considered in a better light, was an adventure, if not an illusion—a glorious boldness.

For this reason—and besides, the expedition required large sums to equip vessels and to purchase arms and ammunition—the greater part was furnished by Bolivar and his friends, efficaciously assisted by Louis Brion, a wealthy merchant and ship-owner of Curaçao, an enthusiast of liberty, and on whom Cartagena had bestowed the title of *Beloved Son of Cartagena*, for the eminent services given by him to the cause of Colombian independence. “So much influence did Bolivar gain over his mind,” says a contemporary, “that from that moment Brion dedicated all his wealth and the rest of his life to the service of the Republic. For the projected expedition, he offered and gave three thousand five hundred muskets, one hundred and thirty-two thousand flint-stones, his vessels equipped, and other articles, worth altogether about one hundred thousand dollars.” The virtuous Brion made the least common sacrifice which men are accustomed to do, because they more willingly expose their lives than their wealth. And his riches were considerable.

The facility with which the expedition was being prepared was looked upon as a happy omen; and amongst all the classes of the emigrants, the return to Costafirme was the only subject spoken of, each one fabricating castles in the air. The purpose required complete freedom of action, at least on the part of the chiefs; and in Jamaica it was not granted. The government of the island, excessively timid, prohibited the retired British officers from accepting any proposition of enlisting or rank from General Bolivar or his agents; and on account of this, no doubt remained, that the Duke of Manchester, echo of the English ministry, would not protect the expedition.

The Holy Alliance, a league of the sovereigns of Europe against democracy, exercised at this time all its power and influence.

Bolivar then determined to proceed to the Republic of Hayti, where his attempts would be properly understood.

During this state of affairs an atrocious crime, for the punishment of which law has not a sufficiently severe penalty, was on the point of depriving America of her Liberator. Those who were endeavoring to force the Continent into a humble dependence, beheld in Bolivar the man most capable of effecting the reaction, and although in a different light, they believed, as did the President of the Congress of the Granadanian Union, Dr. Camillo Torres, that the Republic of Venezuela lived in the person of the Liberator. They therefore sought to rid themselves of him at any cost (as they did not wish the attempt to be doubtful, but sure), and took recourse to assassination.

A Spaniard and a renegade American, well remunerated, according to rumor, by Don Salvador Moxo, Governor and Captain-General of Caracas, proceeded to Kingston; they contrived to introduce themselves into the friendship of the officer Paez, who had been an *aid-de-camp* of the Liberator, and they succeeded in gaining over the negro Pio, one of his slaves, to kill his master. They offered him money (two thousand dollars), not liberty, which he had already received from Bolivar himself. The treacherous servant prepared to commit the crime at night, awaiting the moment that Bolivar should enter alone, according to custom, or that when he should retire to his hammock to sleep.

Bolivar lived in the same room with other exiles, and as he found little comfort, also wishing to give more room to those who accompanied him, he sought another lodging. Fortunately, he found two apartments; a small parlor and sleeping-room, in the house of a French Creole lady named Madame Julienne, which he appropriated to himself. On leaving, after having offered to return the following day with his books and baggage, one of those sudden and violent storms of rain came up in torrents of water, customary in tropical latitudes; and the hostess then invited the Liberator to take from that moment possession of his new house. Bolivar waited for a little time, but the rain continued, and he resolved to remain.

He was accompanied by Pedro Briceño Mendez.

This happy occurrence saved the life of the Liberator of Colombia and Peru.

Bolivar had slept two nights in the room of Paez, at the hotel of Rafael Poisa, on the corner of Princess Street (Kingston). On the third, he had already found the lodgings of Madame Julienne, and did not return. His hammock was occupied by the emigrant Felix Amestoy, Commissary of the Guard of Honor of General Bolivar; and as Pio did not know whether his master had entered or not, at about half-past ten o'clock of Saturday the 9th of December, he crept silently in the room to find out if he had arrived.

The weight of the hammock caused him to believe he had arrived.

The unfortunate Amestoy was tranquilly sleeping when the negro stabbed him with a knife, causing a frightful wound in the neck. Amestoy had sufficient presence of mind to rise in his hammock and cry out: "Paez, Paez, the negro is killing me!" At this moment Pio again raised his arm and plunged his knife into his heart.

Amestoy expired on the spot. . .

At the fearful cry of the victim the other persons in the house rushed into

the room, and assisted by the police, they captured the infamous Pio. His knife was yet dripping with blood.

The negro confessed that he was the author of the crime, saying that he had been bribed to perpetrate it, but however he did not positively say who was the briber.

Pio was sentenced to death, and was executed on the 38d of December, in the public square of Kingston, and his head, placed on a pole, was exposed at Spring Path.*

General Bolivar wrote, on the day following the death of Amestoy, some details referring to the event, and caused them to be published in all the periodicals of the city.

The article is as follows :

"Two thousand dollars have been offered by some Spaniards, to the negro Pio, to assassinate his master, General Simon Bolivar. The temptation of the gold overcame the fidelity of the servant. The prisoner has not revealed as yet the names of those who bribed him. General Bolivar had left his lodgings for some days, and had placed temporarily his trunks and baggage in the room of Lieutenant-Colonel Paez, formerly his aid-de-camp. The general slept during one or two nights in the hammock of Paez; and the assassin awaited that he should sleep on the third. The lights having been extinguished, the negro, who was to fulfill the evil act, to which he had been bribed, came to the hammock, and finding it occupied, stabbed the person who was there, believing him to be his victim. When the unhappy man moved, the negro gave a second mortal wound in the side, which caused instantaneous death.

"This is the third time that the life of General Bolivar has been attempted by the most vile and criminal Spaniards; and on each occasion he has had a hair-breadth escape.

"The unfortunate Amestoy, commissary, was a man of excellent education, and the most polite and inoffensive manners.

"On the day following his death he was to have left for Santo Domingo."

It is here proper to mention, that Don Mariano Torronte, who recalls the fact in his "History of the Hispano-American Revolution," and writes ~~that~~ Bolivar was to have perished there, ~~and~~ has not even an inspiration of justice to condemn the crime, which so much stains the conduct of the royalists of that epoch. The mind is amazed by such a cool indifference, which is scarcely suitable to those who boast of integrity and virtue; as the criminal fault is not to be excused, because a friend is responsible.

Bolivar remained in Kingston a few days more. Stimulated by the ardent desire of serving the liberty of his country, and ceding to the advice and repeated calls of his friends at Cartagena, who said to him that his presence in that stronghold would reanimate its valiant defenders, he determined to return. So great was the desire he had of fighting against the oppressors of America! When some persons recalled to his memory the malice of Castillo, the animosity of Montilla, the deceits and intrigues of Gual, to make him desist from that purpose, he affected a forgetfulness, and said with exemplary determination, that "he did not return to command, but to fight; and inaction was intolerable to him when his brethren were dying for the independence of Colombia."

On this he was informed that Luis Brion, owner and captain of the sloop

* Extract from Royal Gazette and Jamaica Courant.

"Dardo," of twenty-eight guns, was preparing at the reefs of San Luis, to carry provisions and ammunition to Cartagena, and encouraged by such a fortunate circumstance, he did not wait to be followed by any one, and proceeded to unite himself immediately to Brion.

Bolivar embarked in the schooner-of-war "Papa."

On the voyage from Kingston to Cayos, a Colombian corsair, the "Republican" captain Joanny, gave them the news that Morillo had taken possession of Cartagena, and that the principal families of the independents had embarked in direction of the Cayos, in a small convoy commanded by Luis Aury.

The Liberator felt this disappointment extremely, because it prevented him from returning to that part of Costafirme to combat with better fortune against the Spaniards; but he was not discouraged by this news, as nothing could cool the purpose of that ardent and elevated mind. He continued his course to the Cayos, where he arrived, a few days before the fleet conductor of the unfortunate relics of Cartagena. From the Cayos he proceeded to the capital of Hayti, Puerto Principe, where he was cordially received by the generous President Alexandre Petion, to whom he presented a letter of introduction, given by Mr. Robert Southerland, a wealthy merchant of Cayos, and one of the men who with most liberality protected the Liberator in his misfortune.

Southerland was a native of England, and as such, a lover of the freedom of all countries. He pardoned no means in affording the Liberator all he required at Hayti; he interested Petion in favor of the independence of Venezuela, and he, on his part, assisted with arms, money, ammunition and vessels. Such was the interest that Southerland took in the expedition projected by Bolivar, that Petion agreeing to help it generously, it was resolved, that in order not to compromise Hayti with Spain, mistress then of the greater portion of Santo Domingo, the Liberator should draw his drafts against Southerland, who would be reimbursed, in such a manner that there did not exist any proof in the treasury of the republic of its having contributed to Bolivar such assistance. Thus it was that the expedition was fitted out.

Honor to Brion, to Southerland and Petion, worthy friends of Bolivar, unanimous upholders of our independence! A noble sentiment impelled their minds, and nothing avaricious nor interested, nothing personal, occupied the extended ambition of their generous hearts.

The fleet of Aury, which had been spoken of by the captain of the corsair, "Republican," dropped anchor in the reefs of San Luis, the 6th of January, 1816. That emigration which was fleeing from Spanish fury, and which had suffered all classes of privations at sea, found a generous hospitality from Petion, a man of good heart, enlightened and full of virtues, practiced with such exquisite nicety, that they are more easily contained in admiration than in history. Bolivar spoke to him, and Petion immediately wrote to the commandant of the district of the Cayos, General Marion: "My dear General—I strongly recommend you, that you cause the administration of the Cayos to give to the unhappy refugees of Cartagena and its dependencies a daily ration of bread and salt meat. This is an act of humanity worthy of the government of the republic."

The arrival of the patriots of Cartagena fired in Bolivar the desire of pushing forward the expedition.

He now counted a greater number of followers.

The difficulties, however, which still remained to be surmounted, were great

and they would have been greater if Petion, who took the undertaking under his auspices, had not written twice to General Marion, that he permit Bolivar to labor at liberty in his daring and colossal purpose, affording him at the same time, muskets, powder, lead, and even sailors for the fleet.

As these two communications have great importance in our history, I allow myself to publish them integral.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI.

Liberté.

Egalité.

Port-au-Prince, le 26 Janvier, 1816, 18 de l'Indépendance.

A. PETION, Président d'Haïti, au Général Marion, Commandant l'arrondissement des Cayes.

Des raisons que je ne dois pas confier au papier, mon cher Général, mais qui tendent grandement à consolider la République, me commande de vous inviter, par la présente, à mettre à la disposition du Général Bolivar deux mille fusils et leurs baïonnettes, de ceux déposés à l'arsenal de Cayes par M. Brion. Vous mettrez aussi à sa disposition le plus de cartouches de pierres à fusil que vous pourrez, en ne gardant, surtout des cartouches, qu'une petite quantité. Vous ferez sortir ces objets comme envoi fait à la Grand'Anse, en les chargeant à bord d'un bâtiment dont le capitaine que vous placerez aboard, et l'équipage, seront dignes de cette confiance; et ce bâtiment une fois dehors et d'une manière à ne point être aperçu, allongera celui que le Général Bolivar destinera pour recevoir ces objets et les transmettre à son bord.

Il est à propos que cela ne transpire pas, et je me repose sur les précautions que vous prendrez à cet égard.

Je vous salue d'amitié.

(Signé) PETION.

RÉPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI.

Liberté.

Egalité.

Port-au-Prince, le 7 Mars, 1816, 18 de l'Indépendance.

ALEX. PETION, Président, au Général Marion, Commandant aux Cayes.

Si à l'arsenal des Cayes il n'existe point de cartouches faites, afin d'en délivrer au Général Bolivar, conformément à ce que je vous ai écrit, je vous invite, Général, à lui faire donner une quantité de 10 milliers de poudre, mais à prendre telles précautions que cet objet paraisse être destiné pour Jérémie. Vous lui ferez délivrer aussi 15 milliers de plomb.

Je vous invite aussi à arrêter et tenir à la disposition du Gouvernement, pour être livrés à la frégate et à la corvette de l'Etat qui se rendent aux Cayes, expressément, une quantité de marins haïtiens; mais faites en sorte que cela ne dérange point l'expédition du Général Bolivar.

Je vous salue d'amitié.

(Signé) PETION.

The class of the emigrant officers who were to be enrolled in the expedition were, from that moment, the first of the most severe inconveniences which the Liberator had to overcome. There were amongst these open enemies of Bolivar, who refused to submit themselves to his authority, and even pretended to obtain the command of the expedition. Amongst these was the Lieutenant-Colonel Mariano Montilla, enthusiast for his country and independence; valiant, a youth of education and wealth, engaged in the struggle since the morning of the 19th April; but a secret rival of Bolivar, and his open enemy since the un-

fortunate defeat of La Puerta. Montilla was at Cartagena, as we have already seen, assisting Castillo, and when General Morillo laid the siege he accredited in numerous combats, "not only valor and calmness, but the possession of those resources, which in the extremity of misfortunes, which are multiplied in a beleaguered city, show intelligence in the art of war, and knowledge of the human heart." The city of Cartagena being evacuated, Montilla landed with Bermudez and chiefs, embarked in the schooners "Constitucion" and "Sultana," at Sabana-de-la-Mar, in Jamaica, from whence they proceeded to Kingston, and from there to the Cayos. The talents and services of Montilla certainly gave him titles to the highest consideration; but his vanity exalted his soul to an immoderate pretension, and little embarrassed by his duties, he raised disagreements, and even committed the disrespect of sending a challenge to the Liberator, through M. Carlos Laveaux, (8th of March, 1816), offending the respects of the virtuous Brion, in whose house he lived, and who had in anticipation reproved the blamable excesses of Montilla.

Another of the dissident chiefs was Bermudez, who, with his haughty and rude character, made public his disputes with Bolivar. His pretensions were supported by the Commandant Aury, and secretly by Colonel Ducoudray-Holstein, who encouraged and fortified him in order to make himself chief of the expedition. He was spoken to by Zea, Mariño, Piar, and a stranger to whom Bermudez owed great friendship and gratitude, Mr. Joseph Downie; they omitted no means to conciliate him with the interests of the expedition and with the authority of Bolivar; but Bermudez, perturbed with the deceitful appearances of the command, and deceived by Ducoudray, fed more and more the ardor of his ambition, his violence being such that he even calumniated the Liberator, and accused him of being a coward and incapable.

In spite of so much intrigue and so many difficulties, the preparations went on, and when all was ready, Bolivar assembled the principal emigrants, with the view that they should submit themselves to a plan of operations, and elect a chief of confidence to direct the expedition.

The assemblage took place at the house of Señora Juana Bruvil, situated in the quarter named "La Savanne."

This house was the most appropriate for its space and position.

Mariño, Brion, Piar, the Scotchman MacGregor, Bermudez, Celedonio, Gabriel and German Piñerez, Pedro Briceño Mendez, Zea, Ibarra, Justo Briceño, Soublotte, Aury, and Ducoudray, were the most remarkable persons of the assemblage, and with them Dr. Marimon, commissioner of the government of Cartagena, and Colonel José María Duran, who had been commissioners for the government of the Union for the purchase of arms at London.

The Liberator opened the labors of the convention by a discourse full of patriotism and moderation. He did not hide the risks of the undertaking, but based his hopes in the destinies of America, and in that the people of Venezuela should have learned a great deal of the misfortune and torments of oppression. He concluded, proposing that the convention should name freely the person who should direct the expedition, being, as it was, ready to set out. Brion immediately after spoke, and represented the necessity that such a nomination should fall on the person of General Bolivar. "In Venezuela," he said, "a supreme chief shall be elected, to whose election shall concur the rest of the patriots who still live there; but here we should name General Simon Bolivar chief of the expedition."

This dictamen was sustained with evident and efficacious arguments, by Marimon, Duran and Zea, the three Granadanians.

Aury and Bermudez opposed, saying that they believed that the direction of the undertaking, so arduous as it was, should be confided to a convention of three or five members. They deceived conscience, judgment, the instinct of a moral man; because it was impossible that they should feel in their hearts, what they expressed by their lips. If the exit of the expedition required rapidity and energy, how could Bolivar be put aside, and to place themselves into the hands of a body of colleagues always slow in their resolutions?

The whole of the assembly, beginning with Marino, approved the proposal of Brion with shouts of *Viva la Patria!*

Aury left.

Bermudez and Montilla were left nominally excluded for their known and censurable enmity to the Liberator.

Marino was named Major-General of the army; Brion, Admiral of the Republic; and Zea, Quartermaster-General.

Ducoudray-Holstein reached the rank of sub-chief of staff, a post from which he shortly after separated himself, and was advantageously replaced by Lieutenant-Colonel Carlos Soublotte.

The expedition was composed of six schooners and a sloop, commanded by Brion. There were embarked on them one hundred and fifty officers, with some few soldiers, and other persons capable of performing civil posts.

The total number did not reach two hundred and fifty men.

The magazine and ammunition were sufficient to arm six thousand men, having elements of reserve.

"Such were the resources which Bolivar carried with him to combat anew with the Spaniards, in the moment that these, already masters of Venezuela, were subduing, little by little, the kingdom of New Granada, and when they still preserved, intact, in one and the other provinces, the most brilliant and numerous army that had ever been seen in America. In old Europe, where civilization and wealth have multiplied the means of action and movement, they can never conceive the difficulties which were opposed to this extraordinary project of Bolivar, born, it seemed, in presumption or folly. Immense distances, generally void of bridges and roads, intransitable wildernesses, a scanty ignorant population, part of it hostile; ambitious companions who were placed alongside of him by misfortune, and who declared themselves his enemies at the first indication of triumph or hope; powerful antagonists, implacable and active; for them all the resources of the interior, for him poverty. Register the annals of revolutions, see those of Switzerland, France, Holland and the United States, all in it favored the new cause against the old. Reflect, then, with detestation on the undertaking of Bolivar, and it will be confessed that never had an equal amount of embarrassments opposed themselves to any human project; that never had any leader less means of defence and reserve; and, finally, that never was constancy proved by so long a succession of victories and reverses."* Ninety to one was the proportion of the forces which Bolivar brought and those of the Spaniards! The strategic posts and the large cities were occupied by determined chiefs and good troops; by troops, as Morillo said with pride, victorious over Soult,

* History of Venezuela, p. 266.

Maasena, Dupont and Victor, famous marshals of the empire.* The resources of the country had been drained by the revolution, and the desolation was completed by taxes and confiscations. Without soldiers, without territory, without resources, for a war against giants! No; the history of the world does not know any greater example of valor and constancy; no superior model of patriotism and generous efforts. Bolivar, followed by a handful of braves, who, leaving their safety behind, penetrated into the heart of this land with less men than hundreds who ruled and possessed on all sides; Bolivar, coming to destroy with two hundred and fifty patriots, fifteen thousand European tyrants, and carrying the iris of Colombia, from whence the deep Orinoco pays its tribute to the god of waters, to the silvery hills of El Ouzco and Potosi, and exclaiming from the Temple of the Sun: "The cause of the rights of man has gained by our arms its terrible combat against tyrants; America is free; the world of Columbus has ceased to be Spanish;" this is the most splendid, the most beautiful, the grandest and most monumental tableaux that can be recalled to memory in past centuries.

The hour of departure approaching, the Liberator was forced to overcome another grave inconvenience, originating from the intrigues of his base enemies, over whom he succeeded in triumphing through the kindness of Petion.

We have seen that in the convention celebrated at the house of Madam Juana Bruvil, Aury had opposed himself to the nomination of General Bolivar.

Aury favored Bermudez.

Disgusted by the event of that day, which was in opposition to his plans, he presented himself to the priest Marimon, as Commissary-General of the Congress of New Granada, demanding that he should be paid what was owing to him by the Republic, and laying an embargo on the schooner *Constitucion*. The Liberator was informed of what was transpiring, and that Marimon had asked advice of Zea, and he immediately spoke to the governor to impede that such an intrigue should be carried out in manifest injury to the projected expedition.

But Aury, Montilla, Bermudez, and the few who were with them, were not discouraged; and then projected an expedition to Mexico, offering immense rewards to those who should *willingly* enroll themselves, and giving money and military rank in the name of the *Junta of the Independence of Mexico*.

On his side, Aury, to awaken more and more the desire of adventure, announced that his expedition was directed to twenty-five ports. The purpose was to dismember the expedition of Bolivar and leave it powerless, to sow dissension, and triumph by immorality.

This blow of intrigue could have had a rapid and instantaneous action, and the Liberator believed that, to destroy it, it was necessary to appeal to the fountain of authority. He wrote to Petion on the night of the 24th of February, and on the following day the President of Hayti wrote to the Governor of the Cayos, saying to him that the division, which was endeavoring to be introduced amongst the emigrants of Costa Firme, could not be less than fatal to the cause of liberty; that he recognized no Junta or Mexican authority in his territory; he would not permit any vessel to float the Mexican flag, nor consent to any expedition being formed against those shores. He also told him to assemble

* Proclamation of 1st April, 1815, from Ocaña.

all the captains of the vessels of the expedition, and inform them that there was no other authority than that of General Bolivar, and that the vessels who would not follow him were not to be allowed to leave the Cayes; that the government would be responsible for what was legally owing to Mr. Aury; that thus the schooner *Constitution* should be delivered to Bolivar, so that such precious moments should not be lost.*

* This interesting communication of Petion is as follows :

REPUBLIQUE D'HAÏTI.

Liberté.

Egalité.

Au Port-au-Prince, ce 25 Février, 1818, 18 de l'Indépendance.

ALEXANDRE PETION, President, au Général Marion, Commandant, etc.

Sur ce que j'ai appris, mon cher Général, qu'il s'établissait aux Cayes des divisions qui pourraient devenir funestes à la cause de la liberté, par ceux des réfugiés étrangers, qui se disent les uns pour la Nouvelle Grenade, et les autres pour le Mexique, j'ai résolu d'y interposer mon autorité, afin de faire finir ces sortes de divisions qui, en montrant un exemple dangereux au peuple de la République, peuvent être le résultat des machinations des ennemis cachés de l'indépendance du Nouveau Monde. Et comme, en tout état de cause, un gouvernement protecteur de l'humanité, juste, équitable, et père du peuple qu'il régit, doit faire ce qui convient pour la future prospérité et protection de ceux qui vivent à l'ombre de son système établi, j'ai résolu que, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, il ne serait point reconnu aucune autorité dite *Mexicaine* ou du *Mexique* parmi nous; que vous ne permettes sous aucun prétexte, dans l'étendue de votre commandement, à aucun bâtiment, d'arborer le pavillon dit du Mexique, et que vous ne permettes non plus qu'aucune expédition se fasse pour le Mexique, révoquant à cet égard tout ordre contraire à ce que je vous prescris par la présente.

Et comme le Général Bolívar et M. Marimon sont légalement reconnus pour des autorités de la Nouvelle-Grenade, et qu'il doit convenir à la République que cela soit ainsi, vous remettrez en leurs mains tous les papiers des bâtiments de Carthagène qui sont déposés entre les vôtres; vous ferez appeler les capitaines et armateurs de ces bâtiments, et vous leur notifieres de vive voix que le Gouvernement ne reconnaît point d'autres autorités que M. Marimon et le Général Bolívar, dans les mains desquels les papiers de leur bâtiments ont été remis, et que ceux des bâtiments qui ne suivront pas ces deux Messieurs ne sortiront pas du port des Cayes sous n'importe quel pavillon: et, dans le fait, vous vous opposerez par tous les moyens dans votre pouvoir à ce que les bâtiments qui ne suivront pas l'expédition du Général Bolívar sortent des Cayes jusqu'à de nouveaux ordres de ma part.

Je me réfère à ma lettre d'ordre relative à l'affaire de "La Constitution;" les dépenses de ce bâtiment estimées par des arbitres, le Gouvernement répondant du montant de l'estimation, le bâtiment, *don gré, mal gré*, sera mis à la disposition de MM. Marimon et le Général Bolívar. Prévenez le Général Bolívar de toutes ces dispositions et dites lui de ma part de *ne pas perdre un moment de temps*, car il pourrait arriver de l'Europe des navires et des secours qui le contrarieraient beaucoup. Dites lui de ne plus perdre du temps, et lisez lui ma lettre.

Je vous invite aussi à permettre à M. Brion d'embarquer les quinze cents fusils qu'il avait vendus à l'Etat, le marché pour ces armes étant rompu. Il remettra en les recevant le reçu qui lui avait été fourni des Cayes.

Il ne me reste plus, mon cher Général, qu'à vous dire de faire finir, comme je vous le prescris, l'affaire de ces Messieurs; et s'il y avait encore des difficultés à terminer, envoyez-les moi. En attendant, que l'expédition parte, car je désire qu'elle parte.

Signé: PETION.

By this act of authority and respect the disorder was put to an end. Petion, who was uprightness itself, and who, on account of this, was inclined to be the firm support of the Liberator, saw that his orders were strictly fulfilled.

Montilla left for the United States.

Aury separated from all, and departed to seek better fortune amongst the pirates of New Orleans.

Bermudez, although he urgently solicited his admission and incorporation amongst the officers who were going to Venezuela, did not succeed. He was stimulated by the Colonel Ducayla, Collet and others, to solicit General Villaret to allow him on board of his vessel. Villaret answered in these words: "Subalterns should obey their chiefs. Mine has ordered me not to allow you or any of the officers who accompany you to come on board. I feel deeply that those well-deserving soldiers of the country remain on land, but necessity has no law. God have you in his keeping.

"VILLARET."

The officers who accompanied Bermudez were Manuel Isava, Vicente Villagas, and Patricio Rubio.

On the eve of his departure, Bolivar went to Port-au-Prince to bid farewell to President Petion, and to manifest to him his gratitude for the protection shown towards him. "I can pay your generosity," he said to him, embracing him, "only with the purest feelings of my friendship and gratitude." Petion, shedding tears of fondness, replied: "*QUE LE BON DIEU VOUS BENISSE DANS TOUTES VOS ENTREPRISES!*"

On this the magnanimous magistrate of Hayti exacted of Bolivar that on his arrival at Venezuela he should free all the slaves. "How can you found a republic," he said, "when slavery exists? Bolivar promised it to him, adding: "Do not ask of me this act of justice as a reward for your liberalities, but as a happy duty of my destiny."

Afterwards (on the evening of the 28th of March), Bolivar went to take leave of General Marion. He also manifested to him his gratitude as much for the services he had rendered to the cause of Venezuela, as for the kindness which he had bestowed on him personally during his residence at the Cayoa. "I shall never forget it," Bolivar said to him; and on this he begged him to accept his likeness and an embrace expressive of his true and faithful friendship. "*Je vous écrirai souvent, mon Général; que la correspondance des amis double leur existence.*" These were the last words of Bolivar to General Marion.

This one was enchanted by the delicacy and affable urbanity of the Liberator; and used to afterwards repeat to his friends: "*il a été d'une courtoisie remarquable dans cette circonstance.*"

Before ending this chapter, let me be allowed to dedicate a few lines to the sweet memory of the immortal Petion.

"His first quality," said Bolivar, "was kindness, and kindness is the human virtue which does most honor to man." I would add (if my voice could sound after that of the Liberator), that the great talent of Petion was to love men of merit, and to deposit in them his confidence. He was not deceived in Bolivar. Petion did not possess the facility of the mind which creates what it desires; but he possessed a spirit of order, a zeal for the public good, an ardent love for the liberty of men, a generosity exercised without effort, which made him

great and rare amongst potentates. His mode of giving was so amiable, that, said the Liberator, "they were presents covered with flowers." Born for society, Petion was good and useful; his manners, affable; in habits, severe. His works breathe candor and probity, and he has not a small part in the redemption of the New World, having been, as is seen, the fountain of the resources of the liberating expedition.

Petion loved virtue by inclination, and he loved Bolivar by sympathy. "I shall always tribute my admiration," he wrote to France, "to this great man; I know him and of what he is capable. I feel an inclination for him as I feel for the great men of antiquity."

Alexander Petion was born at Port-au-Prince, at the beginning of the year 1770, of a wealthy colonist named Sabés, and of a young free woman of color. At the age of twenty he figured amongst the promoters of the insurrection against colonial rule; the brilliant qualities which he possessed by education and by nature, gave him a great influence over the revolted. Petion was a long time in France, and when, in 1802, Bonaparte sent General Leclerc at the head of an expedition to reconquer Santo Domingo, Petion returned with the rank of colonel, after having received from the First Consul all the liberal promises capable of securing his co-operation. Petion mediated greatly in the pacification of the island; but General Leclerc quickly abandoned prudence and moderation, and provoked a new insurrection. Not only did he refuse to comply with the promises he had made in reference to the gradual emancipation of the slaves, but he also exercised all kinds of rigors, extortion and cruelty against the negroes. The rights of people were violated in the persons of Toussaint-L'Ouverture and Generals Rigault and Laplume. The first suffered the penalty of banishment, the second was sewn in a sack and thrown into the sea, whilst the successor of General Leclerc caused the unhappy African race to be devoured by blood-hounds, whose voracious appetites were carefully stimulated. Petion, full of shame and anger for having followed for a moment, even with philanthropical views, a flag of crimes, retired to the mountains, and there, with a few who followed him, and in concert with Dessalines, he gave the cry of independence. Petion was named unanimously President of the Republic. By his civic virtues and wise administration, Petion made himself the idol of the Haytiens. Agriculture, commerce, public education, interior police, all that could increase the industrial and moral wealth of the nation, were the objects of his most lively and constant solicitude; and in his intercourse with the powers of America and Europe, Petion showed himself full of candor and dignity, without being inferior to the negotiators of other States in ability and diplomatic knowledge. When the end of his presidential term arrived, the Haytiens, who adored Petion, re-elected him for four years; but he believed his mission in this world ended; he pointed out General Boyer as his successor, and retired. Petion died in March of 1818. The beautiful qualities of Petion in misfortune and in power, assign him a rank in history alongside of Washington. His remains were transported to France by the care of a woman whom he had loved, Madame Jaïs, who caused a monument to be elevated to him in the cemetery of Père La Chaise, where it can now be seen.