

DOCUMENTS

1. *A Letter of Ferdinand of Aragon to Diego Columbus, 1510.*

The interest connected with the name of Columbus gives factitious importance to all documents relating to the governorship exercised by him and his son over the Spanish New World, which may perhaps serve as an excuse for printing the subjoined letter. It appears that among the early adventurers seeking the New World there were some debtors of persons condemned by the Inquisition, and the zealous receiver of confiscations at Seville sent out an agent to hunt them up and collect from them, for the royal treasury, the amounts owing to the victims. To enable him to perform his errand successfully the king orders the admiral of the ocean and governor of the Indies and Tierra Firma and his subordinates to lend aid and compel summary settlements. The document is in the archives of Simancas, Consejo de la Inquisicion, Libro III., fol. 47.

HENRY CHARLES LEA.

EL REY

Don Diego Colon, almirante del mar oceano e governador de las indias e tierra firma e a vuestros alcaldes e justicias, Por parte de Pedro de Villacis receptor de los bienes confiscados por el delito de la heregia en la cibdad e arcobispado de Sevilla, me es fecha relacion que en estas villas e lugares hay algunas personas, que deven e son obligados a pagar a mi camera e fisco algunas coantias e sumas de maravedis por contratos o alvalaes e syn ellos que se devia a Diego Deça que por el delito de la heregia fue condepnado a carcel perpetua e sus bienes confiscados, e a otras personas de la dicha cibdad e arcobispado de Sevilla muchos bienes fueron confiscados lo qual el dicho receptor embia a lo cobrar en mi nombre e con su poder, por ende yo vos mando que cada e quando fuere-des requerido por su parte sobre lo suso dicho fagades parecer ante vos a los tales debdores e sabida la verdad brevemente e de plano syn estrepitu ni figura de juicio le administrais entero cumplimiento de justicia e lo que asi fallaredes que le es devido compelades y apremiedes a los tales debdores que luego gelo den e paguen sin dilacion alguna dandole parte dello el favor e ayuda que menester oviere, e non fagades ende al. Fecha en Valladolid a 19 dias de enero de 1510 años. Yo el Rey. Por mandado de su alteza Juan Roiz de Calcena. Estava señalada del licenciado Aguirre.

2. *Letters of Christopher Gadsden, 1778.*

For the following letters of General Christopher Gadsden THE REVIEW is indebted to Edward I. Renick, Esq., of the Department

of State, Washington. The first of them was written two days after General Gadsden's duel with General Robert Howe. Drayton (d. 1779) was at this time a member of the Continental Congress.

I. CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN TO WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON.

CHAS TOWN 15th Augst 1778.

Dear Sir :

I am indebted for yours of 6th and 14th July. All your friends I assure you are concerned that any difficulties should happen so as to occasion hesitation to sign the Confederation. We cannot see the least force in the objections. A confederation ought most certainly to have been signed long since. What must the French think? Have they not made an alliance with 13 States? But how can that be while no confederation is made between themselves and if even upon arrival of their Ambassadeur, every State must be separately pleased and throw so many difficulties in the way? What! Because one State has orders not to sign, and another State has not received instructions to sign, Shall we who had positive orders to agree to the determinations of Congress, withdraw our consent and make the breach still wider and do all in our power to make Maryland more obstinate? Had our confederation been signed there would be no room for any political powers or parties, allies or not allies, to interfere for their own purposes. This is no new thing (I am sure you know) in Europe. Witness Holland, Germany, Switzerland &c. Let us prevent all such manoeuvres as soon as possible. Nothing will do it so speedily or effectively as a ratify'd Confederation. There is abundantly less risk in trusting to a future Congress some 10 or 20 years hence for correcting what may be amiss, than to let this matter lay any longer open. I dread ten thousand times more the restless ambition of a few individuals in each State to overset our matters and enthrall us, than I do anything of that sort from the States themselves. Yr expences must be great at Philad^a immediately upon the British troops leaving it. This is an extraordinary event, and I think we ought not to suffer you to be out of pocket and I hope we shall not.

I am sorry my friend Lee seemed so indifferent with regard to my affair with Howe. I shall trouble you no farther on that subject, only hope the Carolina Delegates will at least disabuse the Congress publicly and not let them continue to think that my resignation was intended as an insult to them, than which nothing was farther from me, for I never thought them to blame. Had they sent Howe to take the command of me, as we were of equal rank, and he of another State, and had no greater opportunities in the military way than myself, I should certainly have felt very sensibly the stroke; concluded it proceeded from their distrust of me, as not being of equal industry, capacity, or integrity with him, and then should most certainly have sent *them* my Commission, and eased their fears, at the same time lamenting the low state I stood in their opinion. But as I always thought, and think still, they knew nothing of