

much on your guard against similar Attempts which, it is reported, are intended to be made against you by the Mississipi.

I remain, Sir, Your very humble Servant,

PATT. SINCLAIR

Lt. Gov.

1781: INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPANISH GOVERNOR OF ST. LOUIS

[Martin Navarro to Francisco Cruzat, dated Feb. 15, 1781. MS. in Archives of the Indies, Seville; pressmark, "Papeles procedientes de la Isla de Cuba."]

Having examined what Your Grace has advised this government of on different dates from September 26 to December 22 of last year, I shall reply in order to all of them and to each one in this single official communication, because the many diverse matters of the royal service in which I am sunk by the absence of the Governor do not allow time for more.²⁴

I can do no less than give Your Grace a thousand thanks for the zeal and activity with which you made the voyage to that village of San Luis in fifty-nine days, arriving at the time most propitious to enable you to place those settlements in a state of defense. The fact that Your Grace took two days more in reaching the American settlement of the Iron Mine²⁵ preserved you doubtless from an encounter which might have been fatal.

²⁴ Galvez, governor-general of Louisiana, had gone on an expedition to capture the English fort of Pensacola, leaving Navarro as governor at New Orleans, *pro tempore*.—Ed.

²⁵ Fort Jefferson was built under the direction of George Rogers Clark in the spring of 1780. It was hoped to attract settlers thither, and build a town, to be called Clarksville. The site was the first high land on the east (or American) shore of the Mississippi, below the mouth of the Ohio, at what was later known as Iron Banks (from the red color of the soil), in Ballard County, Kentucky. The fort sustained a considerable siege from the Chickasaw in July, 1780, to which incident the Spanish commandant probably refers in this document. Fort Jefferson was finally abandoned in the summer of 1781.—Ed.