

In regard to what Your Grace says to me in your letter of December 22, last, on the peace concluded between the American colonies and their former mother-country, it lacks foundation, as does also the coming of Colonel Clark with six hundred men to attack those settlements; and I am immediately sure that if his arrival is effected with a like number, you will enjoy more tranquility than you do now.

I approve Your Grace's formation of the 2d company of militia, which was approved by the Governor-General of this province, January 13 of last year. I do not doubt that the said governor will, as soon as he arrives, issue the fitting despatches to all the officers whom Your Grace proposes, as well as the office of the Adjutant-in-chief in favor of Don Benito Vazquez,<sup>36</sup> in accordance with Your Grace's report in regard to those proposed.

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made the acquaintance of the governor-general. Before 1768 he had decided to remove to New Orleans, and thither brought a cargo of flour the following year, which relieved the city of famine. In consequence he was granted freedom of trade at this port, and the favor of the Spanish authorities. He accumulated a considerable fortune, which at the outbreak of the Revolution was placed by him at the disposal of the States, and drawn upon for furnishing supplies and ammunition to the back country. In 1777 he was appointed official agent for the United States, and financially aided George Rogers Clark's expeditions to the Western country. He was a firm friend of Governor Galvez, upon some of whose campaigns he served as aide-de-camp. Pollock's heavy liabilities for the United States imperilled his fortune, and from 1781-83 he was at Philadelphia negotiating for relief. In 1784, at Havana, he was arrested for debt, and kept under surveillance for eighteen months. After release and a visit to Philadelphia, he returned to New Orleans, where in the following years (1785-91) he partly retrieved his financial standing. About 1791 he retired from business and purchased an estate in Pennsylvania, where he lived until after 1814. Then he went to live with his son-in-law in Mississippi, dying there in 1823.—Ed.

<sup>36</sup> Benito Vasques was born (1750) in Galicia, Spain, and came to St. Louis (1770) as a subordinate in the troops, with Pedro Piernas. In 1774 he married Julia Papin, a Canadian girl, and made his permanent home in St. Louis. He was the father of a large family, one of his sons serving with Pike in the latter's Western expedition of 1805-06. The elder Vasques died at St. Louis in 1810.—Ed.