

## 1792: ENGLISH TRADERS IN UPPER LOUISIANA

[Letter from Las Casas, governor of Havana, to Baron de Carondelet,<sup>55</sup> dated Feb. 17, 1792. MS. in Archives of the Indies, Seville; pressmark, "Papeles procedientes de la Isla de Cuba."]

Your Lordship's predecessor, in letter no. 185, sent me a copy of another letter of the Lieutenant-Governor of Illinois Don Manuel Perez,<sup>56</sup> in which the latter informed him of the entrance of the English into the Missouri River, and proposed as the only remedy the construction of two strong posts on the Moins and San Pedro Rivers.<sup>57</sup>

Since said report does not contain sufficient information concerning American navy, he was captain therein until the close of the Revolution. In 1784 he returned to the Western country and established himself at Kaskaskia. There he soon became the leading citizen, justice of the court of common-pleas, militia officer, and a man of broad hospitality and influence. In 1798 Congress voted him 2240 acres of land as indemnity for his losses in the Revolution. In 1799 he was a member of the territorial legislature. In 1825 he entertained Lafayette at his home in Kaskaskia, where he finally died (Dec. 19, 1830). The present letter was written in response to Clark's request, on his return from the Miami expedition, that the Illinois merchants should sustain the garrison established at Vincennes. It is interesting to note, apropos of Edgar's reported disaffection of the Cahokian inhabitants to the United States, that Jean Baptiste Perrault claimed that Cahokia was on British territory (*op. cit.* in note 53, *ante*).—Ed.

<sup>55</sup> Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet, was a native of Flanders (1747) and had been governor of San Salvador in Guatemala. In 1791 he was appointed governor of Louisiana, arriving at his post Jan. 1, 1792. Carondelet was a man of much ability and activity, and during a very trying period of intrigue and rumors of war he maintained his post and promoted Spanish interests. He was relieved in 1797, and promoted to be viceroy of Peru, dying in 1807.—Ed.

<sup>56</sup> Capt. Manuel Perez was an officer in the Louisiana regiment, being appointed lieutenant-governor of Illinois (Nov. 27, 1787) to succeed Cruzat. This office was held four years and eight months, when Perez returned to New Orleans and was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel of his regiment.—Ed.

<sup>57</sup> The Des Moines and St. Peter's rivers. For the English trade therein, see note 53, *ante*.—Ed.