

Trial of Aaron Burr for Treason, Vol. 1: Printed From the Report Taken in Short Hand (Classic Reprint)

David Robertson

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Excerpt from Trial of Aaron Burr for Treason, Vol. 1: Printed From the Report Taken in Short Hand

Among all the deeds of wonderful projected adventures devised by an astute, sagacious, and practical mind, none that the world had heard of was perhaps, more strange and romantic than that undertaken by Aaron Burr, for the conquest of Mexico. Aaron Burr was quite an unusual type of adventurer, having been Vice-President of the United States, used to the forms of government, and distinguished by remarkable talents, but he was possessed of a restless nature and daring ambition. With a mind tortured by remorse for his unfortunate duel with Hamilton, sickened by discontentment in political preferment, and disgusted with the pacific measures of Jefferson, he seems to have determined to direct his thoughts into scenes of outward conflict, and to bury the disquietudes which were rending his soul by plunging into deeds of romantic and wondrous magnitude. A thousand miles beyond the Mississippi lay a vast and wealthy province of Spain, governed by tyrants whom the people hated, and the riches of that province had long been the theme of travelers. The mines were inexhaustible, and had flooded Europe with gold. The capitol was said to be blazoned with jewels,, and men dreamed of that magnificent city as Aladdin dreamed of his palaces or Columbus of Carthay. A bold adventurer could possess himself of the empire, and the time was most favorable for the enterprise. The priesthood was disaffected, and exercising then, as now, a paramount influence over weak and superstitious Mexicans, would gladly lend its aid to a conqueror.

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