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offer to serve Your Majesty in continuing this exploration, as I did on the voyage to California and on many others, of which I have given account to your royal council in carefully and exactly prepared documents which I have presented there; and I refer, furthermore, to others now forwarded, in which it is shown I have spent the greater part of my fortune and of my health. Yet the little of these remaining to me, as well as my person, is devoted to your royal service with the constancy, love and fidelity of a loyal vassal and servant of Your Majesty, who, I pray, will order the necessities of my men to be considered and that they be rewarded with boons from those powerful royal hands, and that the same be ordered to be done for the naval and military officers who accompanied me, their persons being recommended to your Viceroy of this New Spain. God guard the royal and catholic person of Your Majesty. Mexico, 23d of May, 1603.

SEBASTIAN VIZCAINO.²

Document No. 16.



V^a Jhs M^a Jph

Excell^{mo} Señor

MUY ven^{do} Señor mio, Exc^{mo} acabo d^e escribir á V. E. largam^{te} p^r un correo q^e por California despachó, quatro dias ha, el S^r Capⁿ Dⁿ Fernando Rivera, en contestacion dela d^e V. E. d^e 25 d^e Mayo, q^e en 6 d^e Agosto por el mismo conducto y mano d^e dho S^r Capitan, recibio el P. Lect^r Fr. Francisco Palou, q^e en esta me acompaña, y con los demas assumptos ocurrentes en estas Misiones, incluyendo el Diario d^e uno d^e los dos Religiosos q^e acompañaron la expedicion d^e mar embiada p^r V. E. baxo el comando del official d^e mar Dⁿ Juan Perez El motivo de haver despachado dhas cartas y papeles por un conducto q^e es regular q^e sea d^e bast-

2. Vizcaino's letters, generally, are full of exaggerated statements and falsehoods; and in this letter he gives his fancy a slack rein. We know that Monterey Bay is not landlocked. At the time of his visit many of the beasts and plants he mentions did not exist, nor had they ever existed, in California; nor did he meet with any natives such as he describes. His object in thus exercising his talent for romancing was, of course, further employment.

ante demora, fue porq^e habiendo llegado en 27 del vencido Agosto á este puerto la dha expedicion d^e mar en la fragata Santiago y en ella con salud los dos relig^{os} capellanes (á Dios las g^s) nos dixo su capitan ser su animo detenerse en este Puerto hasta mediádos de Octubre y entonces (q^e ya es regular q^e esten aca las familias q^e Dⁿ Fernando espera) pasar al reconocim^o del Puerto d^e Sⁿ Francisco p^a la fundacion d^e la Mission, ó Misiones q^e parescan necesarias p^a q^e aquel Puerto quede ocupado seguⁿ las ordenes de V. E. é intenciones de N. Cath^{co} Monarca Y habiendo d^e ser assí, d^e lo q^e yo, y todos estavamos contentissimos, parecio el unico medio p^a dar á V. E. las noticias convenientes el despacharlas p^a California Ahora despues ha tomado nueva determinacion dho Dⁿ Juan Perez y es d^e salirse con la fragata d^e su cargo p^a S. Blas y ahuq^e le hemos rogado mucho el P. Palou y yo, d^e q^e si hare dable, se estuviere en su prim^a determinacion, p^a q^e d^e esta vez quedase evacuado lo d^e Sⁿ Francisco se negó totalm^o diziendo tener varios motivos p^a no detenerse y p^r ellos haver resuelto su prompta salida. Y considerando q^e primero llegaraⁿ estas cartas q^e aquellas voy á referir con la brevedad á q^e me obliga lo repentino d^e la noticia y brevedad del tiempo algo d^e lo antes escrito. Y sea lo primero q^e el ganado vacuno d^e las dos Misiones Sⁿ Francisco, y Santa Clara, en vista d^e la dha carta d^e V. E. me lo remitio por nuevo pedim^o el S^r Capⁿ Dⁿ Fernando en 16 d^e Agosto seguⁿ lo ordenado p^r la Real Renta y p^r V. E. y aqui lo tenemos señalado desde dicho dia Di el recibo y ya nada queda q^e hazer en tal assumpto, pues fue muy á gusto y satisfaccion d^e ambas partes.

Tambien dezia q^e el otro dia d^e recibida dha carta d^e V. E. pase con ella al R¹ Presidio y comunique su contenido al S^r Capitan p^a si resolvia q^e se diesse alguⁿ passo azia el Puerto d^e San Francisco, pero me respondió hallarse sin gente y ahun sin armas p^a empresa alguna, como q^e ni el Capⁿ Anza dexó sold^o alguno, ni han llegado las familias La lastima es dq^e quando las tendremos ya no habra barco, y que reconozco mucha mayor inclinacion á ocuparlos en hazer Presidio nuevo á quatro ó cinco leguas d^e distancia d^el Puerto y seys d^e esta Mission q^e en fundar alguna nueva Mission. Assumpto es sobre que iba á representar por escrito á V. E. hallandome en essa Ciudad, quando supe q^e el nuevo official proponia tal demanda, pero como me dixeron que no se le permitia desamparar el Puerto, ni tal translacion, lo dexé; ahi q^e ya me arrepentí despues, quando en Guadal^a, en Tepic, y en otras partes hallava esparcida la noticia d^e q^e iba el nuevo Capⁿ á mudar el Presidio, como si ello fuesse el principal objeto d^e su destino. Ya con una circunst^a nada

me pesaria, y es q^e á una legua mas lexos (supuesto que es camino p^a S. Fran^{co}) pusiesimos una Mission y con esto el nuevo Presidio estaria facil y exactam^e provehido d^e pasto espiritual y los Gentiles, d^e ambos sexos d^e aquellos contornos, se hariaⁿ feligreses de los PP Misioneros y no d^e los Soldados. Estaria la tal Missⁿ á siete leguas d^e distancia d^e esta q^e no es poco respecto d^e ocurrir coⁿ ella á quitar los inconvenientes q^e concibo d^e lo contrario. Si no fuesse p^r lo q^e tiene d^e respectivo á Misiones no habiara en tal assumpto, p^o siendolo, y tanto, no me parece q^e voy en la propuesta fuera d^e mi Ministerio y q^e siempre en aquello me conformo gustoso dq^e V. E. tenga p^r mas conveniente. Es dolor p^a mi (S^r Exc^{mo}) verme abund^e de Relig^o y d^e viveres, y q^e no se de un paso, por un lado ú otro, á algu^o nuevo espiritual laborío, y me rezelára d^e fatigar á V. E. con esta mi repetida cantinela si no estuviesse taⁿ seguro d^e q^e son tan conformes á los d^e V E mis anhelos.

Dava á V E tambien las buenas noticias d^e q^e estos nuevos christianos con el exemplo d^e algunos peones q^e he logrado d^e los Barcos se vaⁿ bien aplicando al trabajo con el azadon en la mano con la barra en los adobes, en la pisca ó cosecha del trigo y su acarreo y demas q^hazeres á q^e se les aplica y q^e este año se ha levantado en esta Missⁿ d^e cosecha á mas d^e 20 fan^a d^e cevada 125 d^e trigo, algo d^e avas y mas de frijol á mas del contínuo socorro d^e la huerta, d^e q^e participaⁿ todos, y se espera una razonable cosecha d^e maiz q^e ya está muy adelantado y bueno, y d^e la abund^a de sardina q^e estuvo varrando en la playa imm^a á esta Missⁿ en 20 dias continuos, y los adelantam^o espirituales q^e cada dia vamos experimentando á Dios g^o En todas las Misiones se van disponiendo p^a el año siguiente siembras mayores, y espero en Dios q^e seaⁿ los trabajos con felizes resultas.

Respecto d^el Diario q^e incluí á V E. dezia q^e no nos quedavamos aca con copia p^a remitarla á su tiempo á nro Colegio y lo mismo escribí al R. P. Guardⁿ d^e dho Colegio p^rq^e quando concluí y firme las cartas hize fixo concepto q^e no habria lugar p^a copiarlo pero enfin lo huvo, se copio á toda prisa. Ahora q^e no dudo iraⁿ á V E los d^e los Pilotos lo remito á dho R P Guardⁿ y el d^el otro Relig^o ira despues. Ya digo al R P^e Guardⁿ q^e si ve no obst^e los otros gustare lo ponga prompt^e en sus manos, q^e supuesto lo hecho no lo envio ahora directam^e

En lo demas me remito á las dhas q^e ahí q^e algo mas tarde espero en Dios no dexaran d^e llegar y q^e despues d^e su salida no hay mas novedad q^e el embarcarse los volunt^o q^e se quedaron en la salida d^e Dⁿ Pedro Fages, menos los seys p^a quienes pedi las licencias

ant^s los 3 son aca. casados y los tres estaⁿ proximos á casarse y ahuⁿ d^e estos he oido q^o se va el uno Con las dhas tambien va carta del P Palou á V E. qⁿ al pre^{te} reproduce sus afectos p con V. E y sus preceptos. Y quedo rogando q^o

Dios N S^r g^{de} la salud, vida, y prosperidad d^e V E. m^o a^o en su S^{ta} gracia. De esta favorecida d^e V E. d^e S. Carlos de Monte-Rey, y Sept^e 9 d^e 1774.

Excell^{am} Señor
Blmsd^e V E su mas affo y rend^o S^{io} y Capellaⁿ
que le venera y ama
FR. JUNIPERO SERRA
(hay rúbrica.)

TRANSLATION.



Hail Jesus, Mary and Joseph!¹

My greatly venerated, most excellent Sir :

Not long ago I wrote at length to Your Excellency by a courier whom Captain Don Fernando Rivera, four days since, dispatched for California,² and in answer to the letter of Your Excellency bearing date 25th May, which, on the 6th August, was received by conduct and hand of the said captain by Father Lector Fray Francisco Palou,³ who is my companion here. In that letter I gave an account of further events at these missions, and with it sent the diary of one of the two religious who accompanied the naval expedition dispatched by Your Excellency under the command of Don Juan Perez, an officer of the navy. The reason for sending said

1. This is the customary invocation placed at the beginning of all documents and letters written by Spanish friars of the order of St. Francis. Literally it means: "Live Jesus, Mary, Joseph!"

2. Meaning Lower California.

3. Fathers Serra and Palou had been inmates of the same religious house at La Palma, in the island of Mallorca, where the former was born. They came to America together in 1749, and, twenty years later, to California. Father Palou survived his companion and, three years after Serra's death, in 1787, published a biography of him, which may be regarded as the earliest Californian book, although it was printed at the City of Mexico. An English translation of this life of Serra was made by a distinguished member of the Historical Society of Southern California, the Very Rev. J. Adam, Vicar-General of the diocese of Los Angeles, and was published in 1884, at the time of the centennial commemoration of Serra's death.

letter and document by a conduct usually rather tardy was this: The naval expedition having arrived at this port on the 27th of August last, in the ship *Santiago*,⁴ and on board of her in safety the two chaplains (God be thanked!), her captain informed us that he had a mind to remain at this port until the middle of October, by which time it is probable that the families expected by Don Fernando⁵ will be here, and then to make the exploration of the port of San Francisco, with a view to the founding of the mission, or missions, which may seem necessary, in order that the region about that port be occupied in accordance with the orders of Your Excellency and the intention of our catholic monarch. And it having so to be—with which circumstance I and all were very content—it seemed that the only way of giving desired information to Your Excellency consisted in sending it by way of California. Since then Don Juan Perez has come to a new determination—that is, to sail for San Blas with the ship under his command; and, although Father Palou and myself have besought him earnestly that, were it possible, he adhere to his prior determination, in order that the matter of the occupation of San Francisco might be attended to at this time, he has utterly refused so to do, saying that he has many reasons for not delaying and for resolving on a speedy departure. And, considering that this letter will reach you before the arrival of those already sent, I proceed to relate, with the brevity made necessary by this sudden notice and the little time remaining in which to do so, some portions of that which has been written already. And, first: As to the neat cattle for the two missions of San Francisco and Santa Clara. Mindful of the directions contained in the said letter of Your Excellency, Captain Don Fernando turned the cattle over to me on the 16th of August, on my renewed demand, in accordance with the disposition of the royal exchequer and the orders of Your Excellency; and, since that day, we have kept it set apart here. I gave a receipt, and now nothing remains to be done in that matter, which was arranged very much to the liking and satisfaction of both parties.

I wrote, also, that, on the day after receiving the said letter of Your Excellency, taking it with me to the royal presidio, I communicated its contents to the Captain, for the purpose of learning whether he would resolve to do anything in the matter of the port

4. The *Santiago* was built expressly for the service of the Californian missions and was used as a transport.

5. Captain Don Fernando Rivera y Moncada.

of San Francisco. But he replied to my request that he found himself without men, or even arms, for any undertaking, as Captain Anza had not left him a single soldier and the families had not arrived. It is a pity that when we do have them here then there will be no vessel available; and I recognize a far greater inclination to employ them in establishing a new presidio, at a distance of four or five leagues from the port and six from this mission, rather than in founding any new mission. This is a matter concerning which I was about to present to Your Excellency a written memorial, at the time I was in that city,⁷ when I learned that the new official⁸ proposed making such a demand; but, as I was told that any failure to protect the port would not be allowed, nor any such change of plan, I abandoned that design. Yet I afterwards repented of this, when in Guadalaxara, Tepic, and other places, I found that tidings had gone abroad to the effect that the new captain was about to move the presidio—as though this were the principal object of his appointment. Still, for one reason this would not grieve me, and that is because at the distance of a league farther—on the road to San Francisco, be it understood—we might plant a new mission; and in this way the new presidio would be easily and in a perfectly fitting way provided with spiritual food, and the heathen of both sexes of those parts would become parishioners of the missionary fathers and not of the soldiers. Such mission would be at a distance of seven leagues from this one—which is not a matter of slight importance when it is considered that such an establishment would be likely to be of service in the prevention of disadvantages which I fancy might arise from a different condition of things. Were it not a matter connected with the missions I would not hasten its execution; but, being such, and to so great a degree, it does not seem to me that in this proposition I am advocating anything not within the scope of my clerical functions. And in this matter I conform to what Your Excellency may consider most fitting. It is a grievous thing for me, Most Excellent Sir, to find myself well provided with religious and with provisions, while no steps are taken, in one way or another, towards some new spiritual labor; and I should fear to fatigue Your Excellency with this my oft-repeated importunity were I not sure that my desires are so much in accord with those of Your Excellency.

6. Juan Bautista Anza was a very meritorious officer of engineers of the Spanish army, as his father had been also. He, the younger Anza, commanded the expedition sent to explore the peninsula of San Francisco, and the first immigrant expedition which came to California by land from eastward of the Colorado river.

7. The City of Mexico.

8. Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada.

I gave to Your Excellency, also, the agreeable tidings that these new christians, following the example set by some of the crews of the vessels whose services I managed to secure, are learning how to apply themselves to labor, hoe in hand and with the bar in making adobes, in harvesting the maize and the wheat and in carting these crops, as well as in other work in which they take part. I reported, also, that this year there have been harvested at this mission, in addition to twenty *fanegas*⁹ of barley, one hundred and twenty-five of wheat, together with some horse-beans and a greater quantity of kidney-beans,¹⁰ and continuous crops from the vegetable garden—in the consumption of which all share. There is reason for expecting a fair return from the maize sown, and it is now well-grown and in good condition, and there will be obtained a goodly number of fish from the abundance of sardines which, for twenty consecutive days, have been spawning along the beach near this mission,¹¹ and a reasonable harvest from the spiritual advancement we are experiencing each day—thanks be to God! At all the missions preparations are making for more extensive sowings in the coming year, and I trust in God that a happy outcome may attend the work.

Concerning the diary that I remitted to Your Excellency, I said that no copy remained here for transmission to our college¹² at a suitable time, and to that effect I wrote to the Reverend Father Guardian of said college, because, when I had finished and signed the letter, I came to the conclusion that time to copy it was wanting; but, as it fell out, there was time, and it was copied in great haste. Now that I doubt not those of the navigating officers will be sent to Your Excellency, I remit it to the Reverend Father

9. The *fanega* was not always the same measure, even in Spain, where the *fanega* of one province was not that of some other province. At the respective missions of California the missionary whose duty it was to superintend the labors of the farm appears to have kept his accounts of the sowings and yield of wheat, and the like, in *fanegas* of that part of Spain where he was born and bred. The *fanega* may be taken as equivalent to from two to two and one quarter hectolitres and may be calculated as equal to about one and one quarter of our bushels. The equivalent given for a *fanega* in the books published by Mr. H. H. Bancroft is not correctly calculated.

10. I translate *haba* (written *ava* by Father Serra) by *horse-bean*, and *frijol* by *kidney-bean*. The *haba* is the *faba* of the Romans—in many Spanish words the letter "h" replacing the Latin "f"—and was a *broad* bean. In Spanish-America the *haba* may have been either the bean known in Spain, or of the variety called botanically *canavalia*, indigenous to the island of Jamaica, and, perhaps, other parts of America. What we call the "Lima bean" is probably of this variety. The word *frijol*—or *frejol*—is of American origin. Whether the bean so called was cis-Atlantic in its origin, or the *judia* of Spain (the *phaseolus* of the Romans, and *kidney-bean* among English-speaking people) can not be determined. Nor is it known in what part of Spanish-America the word *frijol* originated; now, at least, it is common from California to Cape Horn, and is used to signify any kidney-shaped bean. In southern Mexico the *frijol* is a small black bean; in California it is a larger bean of a light chocolate color, and even the abundant small white bean is called by that name.

11. It is impossible to tell exactly what fish is meant by *sardina*. In Spanish-America, as in Spain, this name is given to many different fish—to the sardine, the herring, the *shad*, and others. Father Serra here uses the word *varando* for *barrando*, an older form of *embarrando*, meaning *covering with mud*.

12. This was the college of San Fernando de México, headquarters of the Franciscan friars of the vice-royalty of New Spain. The head of the house was called the *guardian*.

Guardian; that of the other religious will go later. I tell the Reverend Father Guardian that, if he conclude, notwithstanding, that the others might be delayed on the way, he should place it promptly in your hands—the reason why I do not send it directly being understood.

For the rest I refer to my said letters, which, I trust in God, will not fail to reach your hands somewhat later. Since dispatching them nothing noteworthy has happened, other than that the volunteers¹³ who remained here at the time Don Pedro Fages left have taken passage in the ship, excepting the six whose leaves of absence I asked for, and of whom three have married here while the others are about to marry¹⁴—although one of them, I hear, is going away too. With this letter there goes, also, to Your Excellency one of Father Palou, who sends again his affectionate regards to Your Excellency and the assurance of his prayers for you. And I continue praying that God our Lord guard the health, life and prosperity of Your Excellency for many years in his holy grace. From this mission favored by Your Excellency of San Carlos de Monterey, Sept. 9, 1774.¹⁵

Most Excellent Sir:—Your most affectionate and humble servant and chaplain, who venerates and loves you, kisses the hands of Your Excellency.

FRAY JUNIPERO SERRA.
(a *rubrica.*)

13. The first soldiers sent to California were detailed for the service from the regiment called "Voluntarios de Cataluña," a corps raised in the Spanish province of that name. When the regiment came from Spain the men, as well as the officers, were of white Spanish birth; after many years' service in New Spain the rank and file had come to be composed of men of mixed race. This is true also of all the troops sent to California by the vice-royal government.

14. In these early days no soldier, other than a commissioned officer, who came to California a bachelor was allowed to remain for a very long time in a state of single blessedness; as a rule, the new comer was married out of hand to some neophyte of the missions. Very many of the men who at a later day figured in Californian affairs were sons and grandsons of native Indian women.

15. This letter, as well as that which follows, was written to the forty-sixth viceroy of New Spain, who was—not to curtail his name and titles—His Excellency the Bailio Frey Don Antonio Maria Bucearelly y Ursúa Henestrosa Lasso de la Vega Villacis y Córdoba, Knight-Commander of la Bóveda de Toro in the Military Order of St. John of Malta, Lieutenant-General of the Royal Armies of Spain. Later he became, in addition to all this, a gentleman of the royal bedchamber. Of these two letters I fail to find any mention in the works published by Mr. H. H. Bancroft. I may be allowed to suggest, in this connection, that, considering the number of letters which must have been written by a president of missions so active and zealous as President Serra, it is rather astonishing that Mr. Bancroft's writers saw so few of them. President Serra's manuscript is very legible, as may be judged by the fac-simile of document No. 16, published as a frontispiece to this volume. The abbreviations he makes use of are common to Spanish manuscripts of his time. His spelling is peculiar at times, and occasionally he makes use of an archaic word or a provincialism rather than the idiomatic *lengua Castellana* of the eighteenth century.