

[Cross]

Number 168:

The governor of the province of Los Texas is familiar with Your Lordship's official letter of November 23 last and with the copy you have enclosed for him of the letter that Captain D[o]n Luis Cazorla sent Your Lordship on August 30 last; the captain's letter concerns reimbursement for costs pertaining to buffalos captured for shipment to His Majesty, as well as other matters. Consequent to what you command of him, the governor advises Your Lordship of what he believes to be reasonable in all these matters, as well as in others that he deems it appropriate to bring to Your

My dear Sir:

I am familiar with Your Lordship's official letter dated November 23rd of the proximate past year and with the copy you have enclosed of the one ~~official-letter~~ which Captain D[o]n Luis Cazorla sent Your Lordship on August 30 last, concerning ~~that~~ costs be defrayed [MS: 4 lines blotted out] by the avilitado, Lieutenant D[o]n J[ose]ph Santoxa, for subsistence and maintenance of buffalos that have been kept together in this presidio for <sup>lv</sup>// shipment to His Majesty ~~and-concerning~~. The said captain also enters complaints and protests [MS: 2 lines blotted out] of his

Lordship's worthy attention. | company's command having been  
 \_\_\_\_\_ usurped from him, ~~as-well-as~~  
 and of the habiliment having ~~been~~ been changed [MS: 1  
 word blotted out]: for, in addition to the blue chupa  
 specified for privates by the royal regulations [MS: 3  
 words blotted out], another one has been made for them,  
 this one shorter and red-colored. Your Lordship commands  
 of me that the 96 p[eso]s, 3 g[rano]s which the [h]abilitado  
 has spent for the costs of said buffalos be repaid to him  
 from the fondo de gratificas[ió]n; and with regard to the  
 other details relative to the said presidio [La Bahía del  
 Espíritu Santo], I am to apprise Your Lordship of my  
 opinion in order that the corresponding measures may be  
 taken. I therefore inform Your Lordship that by the letter  
 I am enclosing--number 1--you will be advised of the order  
 that I sent to this avilitado; [you will] also [be advised]  
 that the costs occasioned by keeping and maintaining the  
 buffalos up to the end // <sup>2</sup> of the proximate past year have  
 amounted to 125 p[eso]s, 6 r[eale]s, 9 g[rano]s, and I  
 will command that that sum be paid, by an order which I  
 will dispatch to serve the said avilitado [MS: 2 words  
 blotted out] as a certificate of record in the administra-  
 tion of this department. In the account of funds per-  
 taining to the fondo de gratificas[ió]n [MS: 1 word  
 blotted out] up to the afore-mentioned date, the said sum

will thus be shown as cleared. It appeared to me that Your Lordship would not object to my deferring this payment until the end of the proximate past year: not only did these costs always have to be paid, but also the account of the fondo [de gratificación] could be balanced out better in this manner--something the avilitado has to do as of the said date.

From the report in the same letter, number 1, Your Lordship will note the efficacious measures that have been taken to keep and sustain the said buffalos. It is evident to me that Lieutenant D[o]n Eugenio F[e]rn[ande]s, interim commander of this presidio [of La Bahía del Espíritu Santo], has on his part aided those measures // <sup>2v</sup> with the same ardor and zeal that [he would have exhibited] if he had been originally placed in charge of this commission. And I doubt that if D[o]n Luis Cazorla ~~had-been-at-this station~~ were at this station he could have achieved what he supposes; for those subjects who have been responsible for this commission do not deserve the black mark imputed to them of having put little effort into such an important matter; and even I, having no [MS: 2 words blotted out] less opportunity than has the aforementioned D[o]n Luis Cazorla, have not, up to the time of this [letter] been able to attain the state of affairs which Your Lordship has commanded of me.

With regard to the red-colored chupines to which D[o]n Luis Cazorla's official letter refers, letter number 2 will acquaint Your Lordship with the motive for their <sup>3</sup>// design. And in the review that I have passed on this company I am quite far from criticizing this item of dress. Rather, it has seemed quite suitable to let the company wear it, not only because of the fine note of uniformity that it lends, but also because of the better appearance and covering with which these troops have presented themselves to me. Add to this its small cost--two chupines can be made from a single vara of cloth--and if this item is not [MS: 2 words blotted out] one of those that are included in the equipment list of the presidial regulations, neither is the jacket or white cheleque that Captain Cazorla ordered these troops to wear; in which case it seems to me that [MS: 1 word blotted out], in view of their better appearance and greater durability, the red-colored chupines are more fitting and suitable.

<sup>3v</sup>// In regard to the remaining points of D[o]n Luis Cazorla's official letter, [one being] that he feels the command of his company [MS: 2 words blotted out] has been taken away from him, I withhold judgement on the reason for this officer's submitting this petition, ~~and thus~~ in view of what I think of the true motive that lies behind it. And so I say to Your Lordship only that whatever

novedades arise in the company and at the presidio, the commander you have posted thereat informs me of, and I, in accordance with the orders you have sent me, in turn advise and inform Your Lordship of whatever matters arise at these posts. And I have seen at the present time the order and the fine method that the interim commander, D[o]n Eugenio F[e]rn[ande]s, observes // <sup>4</sup> in his political and military command: I have not had a single occasion, either as inspector or governor of this province, to criticise his excellent conduct; rather, I have been quite moved to recommend this officer to Your Lordship as I am doing and will do by separate communication at the appropriate time.

It is a matter of record that when he took command of this presidio by virtue of Your Lordship's order, this company was obligated as of the end of December of the previous year ~~proximate~~ of 1778 to the extent of 523 pesos. For this reason Your Lordship set forth in [your] official letter of May 15 of [MS: 5 words blotted out] last year your orders to make provision for acquitting that debt.

<sup>4v</sup> // And in the audit of accounts that I made on the company in connection with the adjustments made as of the end of December last [1779], a balance of 381 p[eso]s, 1 r[ea]l is affirmed, as Your Lordship will see in the report of balances and indebtedness which I will send you in another official communication. Thus, the entire amount

for the company's armament--821 p[eso]s, 1 rr[ea]l--has been deducted against [the pay and allowances of] these troops. With this is verified the manner in which this commander employs the principles of economy and control, without ~~that~~ the procedures he employs in his interim command-- in which the king and Your Lordship are well served by having chosen him for assignment to this post--being open to criticism.

So that Your Lordship might know that I too have strived for the best outcome // <sup>5</sup> in this company and for greater harmony with its captain, I am sending Your Lordship a copy, legalized by myself, of an official letter that I sent him [Fernandes] concerning the election of the avilitado. I sent it in order that no complaint might ever arise in this matter. From its content, Your Lordship will deign to note my politesse and courteousness; [you will] also [deign to note] that I for my part do not lose sight of whatever may conduce to the fulfillment of my obligations. And I have done what I ~~have~~ promised in regard to my duty ~~fer-from-my-own-purse-I-have-supplied~~ of assisting in the maintenance of the company. For I have supplied this [h] abilitado from my own purse the sum of 1500 p[eso]s, which has served to pay the balances of the lizen[ciado]s and to repay the 24 p[eso]s that those who have remained in [the class of] ligeros were allowed

//<sup>5v</sup> in excess of the 76 p[eso]s designated for them; the last two sums represent a total of 100 [pesos]. I did this in order to avoid delaying the early reclassification of these individuals. Of all the above, Your Lordship can deduce what may be to your greater pleasure, and you can take the measures your very eminent ability may find appropriate.

Our Lord protect Your Lordship's life many years.

Bahía del [E]sp[í]ritu S[an]to, January 10, 1780.

Your Lordship's most devoted  
and faithful servant kisses  
your hand.

Lord Commandant General }  
Cav[aller]o de Croix }

Dom[ing]o Cabello

[A.L.S., 1-5v pp., 1/10/1780]