

[Cross]

Confidential

My dear Sir [and Person] of All my Greatest Veneration:

In the last mail I informed Your Lordship of the arrival at La Bahía del [E]sp[í]ritu Santo Presidio of the epidemic and disease that have so greatly afflicted the outlying provinces of this kingdom. Now I find it necessary to inform you that this presidio finds itself so infected with the said contagion that I am reduced to the greatest consternation: One does not hear // ^{lv} or see anything day or night except the tolling of bells and the sight of burials. The presidio is without any medicament whatever or even anyone to administer it; nor is there even anyone who can perform bloodletting, whereby such an uncountable number of sick persons as have fallen victims at the same time to the said disease might be aided.

Since the 17th I have been fighting off a fever so dreadful that it has left me unconscious until today. The same thing has happened to most of my servants.

Today I learned that a huge body of Lipan-Apaches, enroute to relocate beyond the banks of the Nuezes River, was seen // ² to have to stop ten leagues from this presidio. Victimized to such a great extreme by the smallpox and diphtheria--which are striking at the same time--these

Indians are being decimated to a degree inexpressible. And so an endless number of them, now apostates, now heathens, have come to these missions, which have been inundated with such people. But their coming to the missions is not saving these people from nevertheless dying in great numbers. Since they have the custom of abandoning victims in the place where they die, leaving the victims' horses and whatever else they owned, I feel that some new plague may arise from so many bodies of Indians // ^{2v} and horses as that have died in the place wherein they have relocated. For this reason, immediately upon my recuperating from the prostration to which my illness has rendered me, I will take steps to help avert incidents that can result from the infestation of so many cadavers that are being left to the elements, and I will inform Your Lordship in the coming monthly mail of whatever progress I make. On this occasion I reiterate that I remain at your orders, praying to Our Lord that He will protect Your Lordship's life many years. S[a]n Antonio de Béxar, November 20, 1780.

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

Lord Commandant General }
Cavallero de Croix }

Dom[ing]o Cabello
[Signature is not autograph]

[L.S., 1-2v pp., 11/20/1780]