

[cross]

No. 852

The governor of the province of Texas informs Your Lordship of the hostilities committed by the Cuman[che], Guachita, and Taboayaz Indians. [There is a] statement of a Christian captive who was among them, and this declaration he [also] encloses for Your Lordship. You may wish to avail yourself of it and what [the governor] discloses in adopting provisions for the remedy of future ills that may occur.

My dear sir:

On the 8th day of the present month, at the time the sun was setting, I received word that fifteen hostile Indians had entered the far side of the lower tract, which lies to the south.

They broke down a gate to the enclosure. Finding two poor and most honorable residents called Agustín de Armas and José Ximenes, who were plowing, they killed them with spears and took part of their scalps, since they

were found out and could do no
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less. I therefore immediately set about to send out // Alferes Don Marcelo Valdés with 18 men to head them off at the exit on the west side. Alferes Don Francisco Amangual, with 10 [soldiers] and some residents were to go to the said tract and if they did not find the enemy there they were to follow their tracks. Having done so and not found the enemy in [that] place, they went on to pursue them, leaving the residents to move the corpses to this presidio. The said officers returned to this presidio at half past nine o'clock at night and informed me that they had been unable to overtake the hostiles, as night

had fallen, and according to their tracks they had headed out towards the crossing of Los Olotes, which lies to the northwest of this presidio.

On the 9th day I sent out the four Indian trackers that are kept for // ² such occasions, to find out the destination of the said Indians. Returning on the 13th day, they informed me they had gone as far as San Saba, which is 80 leagues away from this presidio, always following the tracks, which were those of fifteen to twenty Cumanches. Not daring to move ahead, as there were places that were quite exposed, they returned, in the belief that the perpetrators of said murders were Indians of the said nation, and thus they were going at such a pace as was proved by the fact that they had found two horses and a mule dead on the road.

At dawn the 16th day my servants brought word that the enemy had broken down a gate to the enclosure of the house next to mine, to the south, and then opened another where [the enclosure] separates my house from the other. Making their way to my stable, // ^{2v} they broke the beam holding the crossbar, so that they could remove a fine padlock that was on it. Entering the said stable, they took my two best saddle horses and two others belonging to my servants, in addition to a bridle that was hanging on a peg. I stood for a while observing all this ruin, whereupon I was informed that [the Indians] had been in most of the gardens to the west, where they had wreaked indescribable havoc to watermelons, cantaloupes, squashes, and roasting ears, to such an extent that many of the owners were left unable to reap the most meager product of their diligent labor.

I immediately sent out Alferes Don Marcelo Valdés with 20 men and two trackers to follow the tracks of the enemy, though the troops had no more than one horse [each] and did not // ³ wish to wait for re-mounts from the supply [of horses], which was more than 6 leagues' distance from this presidio. Then, when the said officer returned at sunset, he told me it had been impossible to find the enemy's tracks, because the ground was so much tread upon round this presidio on the west side. Thus I decided that that night and that of the 17th seven patrols of 4 men each should be placed on the seven avenues leading into ~~this-presidio~~ [MS: c. in h.] these settlements, [MS: c. in h.] and during [those nights] the hostiles were not able to enter in or succeed in killing or catching any of [the residents] to ~~find-out-some~~ ~~of-the-things~~ [MS: c. in h.] get news [MS: c. in h.] that could be important on the matter.

At around three o'clock in the afternoon the 18th day, a boy appeared in this presidio and said he had been a captive among the Taboayazes. When he had been // ^{3v} led to me from the guardhouse, I put several questions to him, to which he replied forthrightly and categorically that those [Indians] that had wreaked havoc the night of the 16th were a party of 50 Taboayazes and Guachitas and that he had fled from them that morning on the journey they were making to return to their settlements, to which 50 more from the same nations had returned four days earlier. By virtue thereof I have found it appropriate to take a statement from him, which is the one I enclose for [MS: c. in h.] Your Lordship as number 16, ~~Your-Lordship~~ so that you may become knowledgeable of the perfidious actions of the Taboayas

nation and the Guachitas, ~~including their great chiefs, whose heroic~~
~~deeds of the great lord of the Taboayases~~ [MS: c. in h.] such as
 those of their chiefs, and especially the great lord of the
 Taboayases, which [MS: c. in h.] have been so overrated by Don
 Nicolás de la Mathé in the plan presented to Your Lordship.

[Note: The preceding pages contain only corrections in Cabello's
 handwriting. From this point the complete text is in Cabello's hand-
 writing.]

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The acts of the Taboayases // prove what I said to Your Lordship
 in my letter number 844. Consequently, since it was not right that
 these Indians should return to their villages without retribution or
 appropriate punishment for their perfidious actions, I decided to make
 an expedition to overtake them. But I was dismayed in attempting it
 because of the shortage of men I have, which might frustrate any fu-
 ture honorable action at this presidio that might ~~in time be necessary~~
 with time be necessary.

After taking what steps I could think of to effect the afore-
 mentioned expedition, I was able to gather up 40 men from the troops
 (including 2 sergeants), 28 residents, and 9 Indians from the mission,
 comprising a [total] number of 77. I turned over these and 5 Indian
 trackers and scouts to Alf[é]l[r]e[s]e[s] ^{4v} // Don Marzelo Valdés and
 Don Fran[cis]lco Amangual, with whom they set out at 8 o'clock in the
 morning on the 19th day. I gave them orders and advice based on the
 critical circumstances of the present case.

Nor is the detail appearing in the margin any less [critical]:
 it shows that in order to gather 40 men from the troops, it has been

Detail of troops of the
cavalry company of
Béxar the 19th day of
July, 1734

With the horseherd.....32
As escort to the paymaster.....06
Same for the mail.....07
Armorer and drummer.....02
Sick.....01
On expedition.....40

Company total.....88

necessary to reduce the
horseherd [detail] by 2 and
the guard by 8, replacing them
with [civilian] residents.

Of the latter no more
than 28 with proper arms could
be assembled. Thus Your
Lordship can see what the
forces at this presidio amount
to. There are no troops
[here] except one sick private,

the armorer, and the drummer. It seems incredible. I did not want to
neglect to place the details [of troop assignments] in the margin ~~to~~
~~show you the status~~ to convince you of the truth of this.

Of those residents remaining at this presidio, it can // ⁵ only be
hoped that the best [armed] has an escopet or fusil in workable condi-
tion. The rest, lacking even this aid, are useless except as extras
~~by day~~ at night at the five gates to this presidio, at a cost of my
maintaining continuous vigilance over them. For they would be of
little use should the enemy (as I have so often said) come to attack
it as has occurred in many places and might easily occur here, ac-
cording to [MS: one line struck through] the many hostiles who are
making statements. If the Tancagues do so, in view of the incident I
disclosed ~~to Your Lordship~~ in my letter number 848, Your Lordship can
see that unless you take immediate steps to remedy [present condi-
tions], // ^{5v} some catastrophe will occur as a result of this presidio's

exposure.

As for the assaults committed by the Taboayases and Guachitas and
[MS: one word struck through] future incidents that may occur, I
leave it to Your Lordship's consideration to decide on measures you
deem most appropriate. While [MS: one word struck through] the enemy
have disappeared from sight, as of today there has not therefore been
any cessation in substantial trouble. One [occurrence] was the one
contained in the report I enclose as number 17 and the other is that
all those persons who were working on the lower tract have fled again,
as they were attacked by the hostiles and had nothing with which to
fend ~~the-enemy~~ them off. This exemplifies what I said earlier // ⁶ of
the insecurity I encounter when sorties are made and there are no men
at this presidio ~~to-be-able~~ to avert emergencies that may occur. Thus
I have decided not to form any more ~~sorties~~ except from the troops now
returning to this location, in order to avoid the potential [trouble]
that may occur, while Your Lordship is providing such succour and
measures as are required to remedy those future ills that ~~befall~~ may
befall.

May Our Lord protect Your Lordship's life many years. Béxar,
July 20, 1784.

Your Lordship's most attentive
and true servant
kisses your hand.

Lord Commandant General }
Don Phecliple de Nebe }

Dom[ing]lo Cabello

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[A.L.S., 1-6 pp., 7/20/1784]