

Royal Presidio of San Antonio de Bejar, March 15, 1741, presented this petition *was presented:*

Fr. Benito Fernandez de Santa Ana, apostolic preacher and president of the missions for the infidels of San Antonio River in the Province of Tejas, presents himself before your ^{Excellency} Majesty, as is fitting, and ~~s~~ say: I have seen the reply of the two attorneys for the Canary islanders and the dispatch they presented. I am firmly convinced that those attorneys intend to keep the truth of what is happening unknown and thus deceive the higher tribunal of his Excellency. It is certain that all the writings from which they constructed their petition are in their hands. There were three dispatches and three certificates. From the three dispatches they claimed two things: the first one was that the captains should buy corn ^{from} for them at the current price of three pesos, and only ^{from} for them, and ^{from} for no one else ^{should} those captains ~~should retain~~ ^{buy} the corn and other grain; the second one is that in the pueblos of the Indians there ^{should} be no corn fields; and if there are, they ^{should be} are only for the Fathers.

With the first certificate of the Governor they intended to draw upon the royal treasury under the pious pretext of devotion and attendance at divine services. With the other two they wanted the lands of the two Missions of San Antonio and Concepcion to become their own, saying that little land had been ^{sectioned} sorted out for them, and it was sterile, even worse in this section, whereas the Indians of the missions had plenty of water and very fertile land. This is in substance the ^{essence} marrow of the three certificates. As to the three ~~des~~patches, there is nothing in them that says that the captains must pay for corn at the price of three pesos, and also that they offer no hindrance so that the pueblos

of the Indians are unable to sell their corn, and much less order the captains not to buy corn and grain ~~from~~ ^{from} these same Indians. So now it remains only to know the contents of the petition they have made, ~~and this~~ ^{disclose} which they refuse to ~~do~~. In case you do not have it, I am giving it here to meet this lack, for it is very important that it be seen with its errors ~~that~~ ^{which} totally obscure the face of truth. As to the rest, which I justly and with reason ask for, they may present it. I now say again that it is in their hands, because their petition asks for it, the Senor fiscal is ordered to give it, the Senor Auditor agrees with this opinion and the most Excellent Lord Viceroy commands it. The attorneys do not speak the truth in denying these writings, for they come to rest not in the higher tribunal but in their hands. In their reply they are excused of a crime which I do not impute to them but by that very same ^{fact} they are suspected ^{of} for not presenting the dispatch ~~whcih~~ which they had for a long time in order to consult with their attorney if it should be legalized by the present viceroy before it is presented in the tribunal of this Province. ^{being} About their reasons I ~~do not allow to~~ ^{must} admit a sagacity which is not a little deceitful ^{as they} and trying to deceive the present viceroy with the decrees given by the ^{former} viceroys of the past, which have the same force as the writings they put out. These are supposed ^{to} or do contain little or no truth (as I have stated already) and much more remains to be said.

The reply of these attorneys ends with what you are doing ^{as} in regards ~~to~~ the orders of his Excellency given in the dispatch which they present. And so your doing what the dispatch says results exactly in taking no notice of what it contains, for nothing is certain in what the attorneys say in their petition. In such a case your Excellency advises that nothing ^{be} ~~is~~ done. ~~In such a case~~ when instruction is

lawyers
 wanting, all ~~judges~~ are certainly in agreement. It is clearly stated
 in the second title of rescripts that the decrees of princes carry
 these ^{unfavorable?} ~~invitas~~ phrases, although they do not express them: if it is so,
^{then} ~~if~~ prayers nullify the truth, save ⁱⁿ the right of ~~another~~ ^{one} or without prej-
 udice to the right of ^{the} another. It is clear to you, as in fact it is clear,
 that the profits of the Fathers are nil, and the reason they have ^{refuse} ~~for~~ ^{deny-}
~~ing~~ the Indians is not ~~for~~ their own interest but ^{for} what I shall say in
 number ten and in other numbers. And so it is that you should not put
 into execution what his Excellency the Lord Viceroy orders and ^{decides} ~~resolves~~
 the right in agreement with all lawyers.

A faithful copy, though unsigned, of the petition which the
 attorneys ^{for} of the families of the Canary Islands presented to the higher
 tribunal of his Excellency with the errors I note, ^{which as} ~~and~~ are found at the
 end of this copy.

PETITION

Don ~~Vicente Alvarez~~ ^{Travieso,} the ~~energetic?~~ high constable, Don Juan Leal,
 the magistrate for the cabildo, justice and administration of the
 Villa of San Fernando in the Provinces of Tejas, so that right pre-
 vails, I come before your Excellency and say that the citizens and
 first settlers of this Villa, (error 1) ever ^{since} they left the
 Canary Islands to come to this Kingdom (error 2) by the decree of
 His Majesty have experienced notable discomforts and hardships ex-
 pecially in this new settlement they have formed. Various and mod-
 erate assistance has been given by his Excellency and also by the
 Marqués de Cassa fuerte, as is seen in the three dispatches I present

