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A Letter Written by the  
Most Honorable Lord  
Don Antonio de Mendoza,  
Vice-Roy of Nueva Espanna,  
to the Emperors Maiestie

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LETTER OF MENDOZA AND REPORT OF  
FATHER MARCOS OF NIZZA.—INTRO-  
DUCTORY NOTE.

**I**N order to furnish the reader the available data concerning the fate of the two companions of Cabeza de Vaca, who remained in Mexico after his return to Spain, it has been deemed proper to add the two documents which follow. There is first a letter of the Viceroy Don Antonio de Mendoza in which, as far as I am able to ascertain, the only (very meagre) data concerning the subsequent career of Andrés Dorantes in America are found. This is followed by the well-known report of Father Marcos of Nizza on his expedition to Cibola (Zuñi), in which the Moor Estévanico acted as his guide and perished. The text of the documents is taken from the edition of 1810 of "Hackluyt's Collection of the Early Voyages, Travels, and Discoveries of the English Nation," Vol. III., pp. 436 to 4446. The translation is known to be quite indifferent, still the main points are reliable and it fully serves the purpose, which is not to furnish a critical study of Father Marcos of Nizza, and his achievements, but simply to supply the information indicated, and, at the same time, establish the logical connection of this narrative with the "Journey of Coronado," already presented in "The Trail-Makers."

AD. F. BANDELIER.

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A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE MOST HONORABLE LORD DON ANTONIO DE MENDOZA, VICE-ROY OF NUEVA ESPANNA, TO THE EMPERORS MAIESTIE.

Of Certaine Noblemen Which Sought to Discover the End of the Firme Land of Nueva Espanna Toward the North. The Arrivall of Vazquez de Coronado with Frier Marco at S. Michael of Culiacan, with Commission to the Governors of Those Partes, to Pacifie the Indians, anl Not to Make Them Slaves Any More.

**I**N the ships that went last from hence (whereof Michael de Usnago was Admiral) I wrote into your maiestie, how I had sent two Franciscan Friers to discover the end of this firme land, which stretcheth to the North. And because their iourney fell out to greater purpose than was looked for, I will declare the whole matter from the beginning. It may please your Maiestie to call to mind how often I wrote unto your Highnesse, that I desired to know the ende of this Province of Nueva Espanna, because it is so great a countrey, and that we have yet no knowledge thereof. Neither had I onely this desire; for Nunno de Guzman departed out of this city of Mexico with 400 horsemen, and 14,000 Indians footemen borne in these Indias, being the best men and the best furnished, which have bene seene in these parts; and he did so little with

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them, that the most part of them were consumed in the enterprize and could not enter nor discover any more then already was discovered. After this the saide Nunno Guzman beeing Governour of Nueva Galicia, sent Captaines and Horsemen foorth divers times, which sped no better then he had done. Likewise the Marques de valle Hernando Cortez sent a captaine with 2 ships to discover the coast: which 2 ships and the captaine perished. After that he sent again 2 other ships, one of the which was divided from her consort, and the master and certaine mariners slue the captaine and usurped over the ship.

After this they came to an Island, where the Master with certaine mariners going on land, the Indians of the Country slew them, and tooke their boat: and the ship with those that were in it, returned to the coast of Nueva Galicia, where it ran on ground. By the men which came home in this ship, the Marques had knowledge of the countrey which they had discovered: and then, either for the discontentment which hee had with the bishop of Saint Domingo and with the Judges of this royal audience in Mexico, or rather because of his so prosperous successe in all things here in Nueva Espanna, without seeking any farther intelligence of the state of that Island, he set forward on that voyage with 3 ships, and with certaine footemen and horsemen, not throughly furnished with things necessary; which fell out so contrary to his expectations that the most part of the people which he carried with him,

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dyed of hunger. And although he had ships, and a Countrey very neere him abounding with victuals, yet could hee never finde meanes to conquer it, but rather it seemed, that God miraculously did hide it from him: and so he returned home without achieving ought else of moment. After this, having heere in my company Andrew Dorantez, which is one of those who were in the voyage of Panphilo Naruaez, I often was in hand with him, supposing that he was able to doe Your Maiestie great service, to employ him with fortie or fiftie horses, to search out the secret of those parts: and having provided all things necessary for his journey, and spent much money in that behalfe, the matter was broken off, I wot not how, and that enterprise was given over. Yet of the things which were provided for that purpose, I had left mee a negro, which returned from the foresayde voyage of Naruaez with Dorantez, and certaine slaves which I had bought, and certaine Indians which I had gathered together who were borne in those North partes, whome I sent with Frier Marco de Niça, and his companion a Franciscan Frier, because they had bene long travelled, and exercised in those partes, and had great experience in the affaires of the Indies, and were men of good life and conscience, for whom I obtained leave of their superiours: and so they went with Frances Vazquez de Coronado, governour of Nueva Galicia unto the Citie of Saint Michael of Culiacan, which is the last Province subdued by the Spaniards towarde

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that quarter, being two hundred leagues distant from this Citie of Mexico. As soone as the governour, and the Friars were come unto that Citie, hee sent certaine of those Indians which I had given him, home into their Countrey, to signifie, and declare to the people of the same, That they were to vnderstand, that your Maiestie had commanded they should not hereafter bee made slaves, and that they should not be afrayd any more, but might returne unto their houses, and live peaceably in them, (for before that time they had bin greatly troubled by the evill dealings which were used toward them) and that your maiestie would cause them to be chastened, which were the causes of their vexation. With these Indians about twentie dayes after returned about 400 men; which coming before the governour said unto him, that they came on the behalfe of al their countrey-men, to tell him, that they desired to see and know those men which did them so great a pleasure as to suffer them to returne to their houses, and to sow maiz for their sustenance, for by the space of many yeres they were driven to flee into the mountaines, hiding themselves like wild beasts, for feare lest they should be made slaves, and that they and all the rest of their people were ready to doe whatsoever should bee commanded them: whom the governour comforted with good wordes, and gave them victuals, and stayed them with him three or foure dayes wherein the Friars taught them to make the signe of the crosse, and to learne the name of our Lorde Jesus

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Christ, and they with great diligence sought to learne the same. After these dayes hee sent them home againe, willing them not to be afraid, but to be quiet, giving them apparel, beades, knives, and other such like things, which I had given him for such purposes. The sayde Indians departed very well pleased, and said, that whensoever hee would send for them, they and many others would come to doe whatsoever he would command them. The entrance being thus prepared, Frier Marco and his companion, with the Negro and other slaves, and Indians which I had given him, went forward on their voyage 10 or 12 dayes after. And because I had likewise advertisement of a certaine Province called Topira situate in the mountaines and had appointed the governour Vazquez de Coronado, that he should use meanes to learne the state thereof: he supposing this to be a matter of great moment determined himselfe to goe and search it, having agreed with the said Frier, that he should returne by that part of the mountaine, to meete with him in a certaine valley called Valle de los Coraçones, being 120 leagues distant from Culiacan. The Governour travelling into this province (as I have written in my former letters) found great scarcity of victuals there, and the mountaines so craggy, that he could finde no way to passe forward, and was inforced to returne home to Saint Michael: so that as well in chusing of the entrance, as in not being able to finde the way, it seemeth onto all men that God would shut up the gate to

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all those, which by strength of humane force have gone about to attempt this enterprise, and hath reveiled it to a poore and bare-footed Frier. And so the Frier beganne to enter into the Land, who because he found his entrance so well prepared, was very well received; and because he wrote the whole successe of his voyage, according to the instruction which I had given him to undertake the same, I wil not write any more at large, but send your Maiestie this copy of all such things as he observed in the same.