

A relation of merits and services of the conquistador Bernardino Vázquez de Tapia

Note: Translated by Google Translate, 2019, and Jeremy Lipps. Parentheses are added headers for clarity as the original has no chapters.

Illustrious señor:

Bernardino Vázquez de Tapia, neighbor and alderman of this great city of Tenuxtitlán Mexico, noting what was ordered by your honorable honor, I say that I am a native of Oropesa, although I have rarely been there, and I am the son of Pedro Sánchez Vázquez, brother of the Dr. Pedro Vázquez de Oropesa, professor in Salamanca, and Marina Alfonsa de Balboa, sister of Don Francisco Álvarez, abbot of Toro, inquisitor in kingdoms and other provinces and cities for many years; With whom my uncles said I grew up for missing my parents, all of whom and my brothers and my grandparents and other relatives served the Royal Crown a lot.

I went to the Indies with Governor Pedro Arias de Ávila, five hundred and thirteen years old. And we went to the coast of the mainland, in that part that is called Castilla del Oro, where I spent two and a half years, more or less; and on the road and in said land, on entrances and coasts that were sent to me by the said governor and captain in his majesty's service, I went through many dangers and jobs, without receiving any salary or bedtime.

Item. After what was said, I came to Fernandina Island, which by another name is called Cuba, where I served in some entries that they made against rebellious people who were in some parts, and the governor of it, Don Diego Velázquez, for my person and services, he gave me an encomienda with pueblos and Indians to take advantage of and to serve me.

(Grijalva Expedition)

After what has been said, in the year of five hundred and seventeen, the said Governor Don Diego Velázquez sent his nephew, Captain Juan de Grijalva, with four navy ships, in the service of his majesty, to discover islands or a new land, I was in the armada ensign as the general lieutenant of all the people and the army; and from that road we discovered the island of Cozumel, and we named it the island of Santa Cruz, because that day we discovered it; and the coast of Yucatán, on the southern part, up to Ascensión Bay, which we named it that way; and from there, we went back along the said coast, in which and on the said island of Cozumel, we saw great towns and stone buildings. Later, we coasted the coast of the southeast and the east and the north, to a great town that is on the coast, which was called Campeche, in which we disembarked, and the natives gave us a battle, in which we were in great danger of losing our

lives, and the Captain was badly wounded and all of us who were there, and a gentleman soldier died. And out of that danger, we found another so great that it was that, wanting to pick up the ships, the sea had decreased so much, that it had left them almost dry and upset and swollen with mud, that we did not think that they came out of there but broken to pieces. , and that we stay there isolated and lost. Later, leaving there, there was a ship that was in bad condition and that was going to the bottom, and looking for a port to repair it, we arrived at one that we called Puerto Deseado, where we stayed for a few days, and said ship was repaired.

Later, going further on, we discovered the land of New Spain, and we reached the Rio Grande de Tabasco, which we named the Grijalva River, and we entered the ships in the river and saw the town of Tabasco, where we jumped on land and took possession in the name of his majesty. Later, we went along the coast ahead, seeing the land of New Spain, until we reached the island of Sacrificios and the port of San Juan de Ulúa, where we disembarked and stayed for many days, and we heard news of the great city of Mexico and other cities and provinces of this land and the goodness and wealth of it. And from there we set out onwards, discovering even the port of Villa Rica; From there, we went along the coast and saw a large town, which we named Almería, and from there, we discovered a large river, which we named San Pedro and San Pablo, from which more than thirty canoes emerged. And because when we arrived there, we ran out of supplies, and the currents of the sea were going very strong ahead, and the pilots and sailors feared that the currents would put us in part that we could not return and we would perish of hunger, they persuaded said Captain Juan de Grijalva that we return, and we did so from the said river, having been and jumped in many parts of said land and taken possession of it by his majesty and in his name. And all the times that we had to go ashore, I was the first to go out with the flag and my companions of the flag, and in what was said about the said discovery, as in the return, we went through many dangers, and we worked like that in the Sea as on land, because many times, while sailing, we hit shoals with ships and rocks, and sometimes boards from below broke and we went deep and saw ourselves in great danger; and at other times, in the absence of supplies and water, we suffered from severe hunger and thirst and, wanting to remedy it, we came to the land and jumped into it, where we found a large number of war Indians who had trapped us; and we were about to lose our lives; and it pleased God that we broke them down and drank water, and in some cornfields that we ran into, we took many loads of corncobs, with which we relieved hunger. And with these jobs and dangers, it pleased God that we returned to the top; in all of which, and in all the said discovery, I found myself, as I have said, being a general lieutenant.

(March to Mexico)

After what was said, the said marquis wanted to enter the land's interior, and leaving the town well populated with people so that the land of the region would be safe, with three hundred footmen of the most courageous and thirteen on horseback, entered the land's interior, to reach and enter the great city of Tenxtilán Mexico, of the thirteen on horseback I was one, and all the way, until reaching the first towns subject to Tlaxcala, four leagues from the city and head of said province of Tlaxcala, we went through many labors and dangers because of not knowing

the land; and encounters with Indian warriors and because of not finding food we went very hungry.

(Tlaxcala)

But when we arrived in the land and towns of Tlaxcala, our labors and dangers were doubled, because when we arrived there, less than twenty Indian warriors, we encountered, that the armies of Tlaxcala had sent spies or discoverers, wanting to seize them and take them alive to know their language, they killed two horses and wounded others and some of the Spanish on horseback. And then a squad of more than twenty thousand well-dressed and well-armed men arrived. And when they arrived, without waiting a moment, they came among us like dogs, putting us in a lot of trouble and danger; and it pleased God Our Lord that we killed their captain general, after having fought for more than two hours and had them defeated; and the dead they took on their shoulders and left and left us, that we praise God not a little for having left us, that we were in great danger. And all the horses, or most of them, were injured and many of us, without knowing a cure or what to cure, the horses or us, or what to eat, although we had worked well, and we slept in that field with great care. Another day tomorrow, we left tied to Tlaxcala and, although it was well into the morning, two hours after sunrise, we began to bump into so many armed warfare people, who were covering the fields, and they began to surround us everywhere; And the marquis wanted to speak to some of the captains to make their requests and protests, they did not want to listen, and a captain of those began to dishonor certain Indians of Cempoala, who were there who were going with us, telling them that they were traitors and scoundrels. , because they came with us and guided us. One from Cempoala responded by saying that they were more traitors, because, without hurting them, they left armed of war against us, and on this they unleashed themselves and went to each other with their swords and bucklers and other weapons and gave themselves so many blows, until ours from Cempoala knocked down the other one and began to cut off his head, that it was not a small good sign that we had it and it caused us to increase our spirits. Then the enemies rushed to help their captain; Others hit us and surrounded us like a bull in the arena, and giving us such a rush everywhere that we could not cope, and they put us in great danger, until those on horseback broke on one side, where we made them do place, although there were so many people, that there were everywhere, that we did not have time to wheeze. And so we fought all that day, until the afternoon when, while we were fighting, we saw a tower, which was the home of his idols, and the marquis ordered us to go to it, although on the way we did not lack people with whom to fight, and she was full of war people. We won it and the said marquis settled in the said tower and we settled the royal around the tower and in some houses that were there and we arrived such that we had to rest and eat well, if we had something to eat. We stayed in this place for more than thirty days, each day about eighty thousand men came upon us, and every day they put us in great danger, because we on horseback went out to fight with them in the field and the people of a foot fought in the real and around him; and sometimes they came upon us at night, saying that at night they would not see the horses and since there were no horses, they did not pay much attention to the people on foot. And as the first time they came at night, two of us went out on horseback to the field of the Los, they became very afraid and fled, and seeing that the marquis ordered us to go out at night; and we went into large towns and set fire

to them, and since they were neglected, we did a lot of damage to them, and waging war on them in this way many toils and dangers, some leading men advised the marquis to return to sea, because they saw the cost in terms that we were all to die there; and the marquis said that he would rather die than turn back one foot. In short, it pleased God Our Lord that, as they were tired, they began to speak in peace and in concert. At this time, messengers from this great city of Mexico and Montezuma arrived there, saying that they were going on their errand, because they had known the war they were giving us and that certain horses had died and had injured many of us and treated us badly, of which he had weighed Montezuma, and imbued them so that, if we needed something, and if they wanted, he would embed war people on our behalf. The marquis and we all rejoiced with that message, because of the danger and work we had been in, from which we were still not free and, although those messengers came to take notice of who we were and what we were doing and how we were doing with the from Tlaxcala, we still enjoy his coming.

And because of the said messengers, the marquis took the opportunity to wish to send messengers with Montezuma, because it seemed to him it was very convenient and necessary, both to secure Montezuma, and because those who were, saw and knew the land and the roads and the cities and towns that were, and so that they brought notice and relation of what they saw. The marquis being in this desire, he sometimes said in public that if he had two sons and two brothers there that he loved very much, he would send them by messengers to Montezuma.

(Alvarado and de Tapia Expedition)

Understanding the desire of the said marquis, I offered to go, who thanked me very much and accepted my offer. Later, Don Pedro de Alvarado also offered to go, and the marquis agreed that we should both go and give us instructions on what to do, and presents of things from Castile, so that we could give to Montezuma. And although we both had horses, he ordered us to leave them behind and to go on foot, because if they killed us, they would not be lost, since a knight on horseback is estimated to be more than three hundred pawns. We left the camp to go our way, where the messengers from Montezuma were taking us, and we went to the city of Tlaxcala where, as peace was already being discussed, we could go safely. Those from the city of Tlaxcala, as they saw and knew that we were going by messengers from Montezuma, as they were their great enemies, it seemed to them that with our departure Montezuma and those of his kingdom had to become our friends and, being they and we friends, they would be destroyed. They agreed to remedy it themselves by killing us and, so that it would not appear that they had killed us, they ordered a caution that was in this way: we had to go from Tlaxcala to the city of Cholula, which they were taking us there; those from Cholula were friends and allies of Montezuma and those of his kingdom and those of Tlaxcala and those of Cholula great enemies and every day they fought with each other; The people from Tlaxcala prepared a lot of armed warriors and put it on purpose, and after us, going our way, in a river that is between the mountains of Tlaxcala and Cholula, which was very high, they covered up a bridge that had and made us pass by the river, where we were passing through, they wanted to drown us, but those of Montezuma, who were going with us, understood and hindered it. Later, as we went our way, as we were near the terms of Cholula, there were many warriors on one side and the other of

the road, and they began to shout and give signs of war. Those of Cholula, who were in their towns and farms, then came with their weapons and began to fight with each other and their intent and budget of those of Tlaxcala was, fighting with those of Cholula, to kill us and spread fame and say that those of Cholula had killed us in their land. The messengers from Montezuma understood the treachery and dispatched messengers, returning to those from Cholula to warn them that we were coming there, and with great brevity many people came out to prevent those from Tlaxcala from killing us. The messengers returned and gave notice, and those who were going with us from Montezuma persuaded us to walk a lot, and so we prodded as much as we could, and that we did not run as much as they wanted, they grabbed our wrists and made us run more than we could, at which moment many people had already left and they were fighting very hard everywhere and they were coming to us, to execute their evil, we were in no little danger. God was pleased that we saw two squadrons of people running along the Cholula road, not taking care of those who were fighting, and from the moment they came to us, they opened up and took us in the middle, and so we were saved. And they took us to Cholula and the others were left fighting, mocked at turning their betrayal backwards. From Cholula they took us to Guaquichula and because those of Guaquichula were friends and confederates of those of Tlaxcala, and we had to go through much of the land and towns of Guajotzingo, out of fear that those of Montezuma would come out on us and kill us, that They went with us, they left the road and without a path they took us through and around some mountains and mountains, which with great work we reached Guaquichula. From there they took us to Tochimilco, the town that belonged to Juan Rodríguez de Ocaña; from there to Tetela, a town that belonged to Pedro Sánchez; from there to Tenantepeque, the town of Francisco de Solís; from there to Ocuituco, a town that belonged to the Bishop of Mexico; from there to Sumiltepeque, a town that belonged to Escobar; from there to Chimaloacán; and from there to Amecameca; and from there to Tezcucó, where Montezuma sent seven lords, among who was his son Chimalpopoca, and a brother who was the one who started the war and others, and they told us that Montezuma was bad and in a city surrounded by water, that we could neither enter it nor see it without great danger from us; that we should turn around, and that three gentlemen would come among them, who would go with us to speak to the captain. And seeing that which was too stubborn, we went back the same way. Well I think, Montezuma came there to see us. On this road we went through a lot of work and dangers and he took great advantage of our coming, because by the same road that led us, they insisted afterwards that they did not know another way to Mexico, and that the marquis and us would go there when we went to Mexico; And if that were the case, we would put ourselves in great danger, because it was the worst and most dangerous path of boulevards and deep ravines, which descended by stairs and returned to climb them; and those steps so deep that twenty Indians were enough to defend one step and kill us all. We arrived in Tlaxcala and found the Marquis and all the people, who had already come together and made peace; Let us give him an account of our path and give him weight, because they had not let us get to Mexico. And the ambassadors to Montezuma, who came with us, gave their embassy and told him that Montezuma wanted to be his friend, because he was bad and in a city surrounded by water, that you couldn't enter it and in a very barren land that there was no what to eat; that I begged him not to go there. The Marquis was weighed down by this, the more inconveniences they put on him, the more he wanted to go forward and see Mexico; And so, after things in Tlaxcala had settled and put in order and concert, we left Tlaxcala to go to Cholula and, being a

small day that could be walked in less than a day and even in little more than half, they made us sleep that night in the field, and we saw that those from Cholula were in a bad way, and the roads were very good, that Don Pedro de Alvarado and I saw when we came and went there, they had them covered and opened others again, very wicked . We went to Cholula and they took us to lodge in some very wicked rooms, all of them fallen, having put Don Pedro de Alvarado and me in other very good rooms; Which we told the marquis, and he did not want to pose there, but in the rooms where we had posed, which the Cholulans accepted reluctantly, and they did not want to feed us, or corn for the horses, but all the people of bad art. And as the marquis saw all these things, he feared of some betrayal and ordered that all the people be very alert, and walking with great warning inquiring, he knew that there near Cholula, there was a garrison of people from Mexico and, ratified it, determined before to take us asleep, to hit one and the other, and I did so, although not with little danger to us. And so it was done with the help of those from Tlaxcala, who were in our favor, because of the friendships they had made with us, and the city of Cholula was destroyed, although it soon returned to redevelop and populate. From Cholula, the best route to Mexico was sought, because Don Pedro de Alvarado and I informed him that it was not convenient for him to go the way we went; And finally, they directed us to go along a path that goes between the volcano and the Sierra Nevada, and so we went, the day we left Cholula, to a small village in the land of Guajotzingo, which they called Los Ranchos; And another day we climbed to the top of the sierra, between volcano mountains and the Sierra Nevada and here, that night, we sensed people of war and we feared that they wanted to hit us. Another day, we went down the mountains and arrived at Amecameca, where we stayed for two or three days; From there, to another day, we went to Tulcingo, and, another day, we went to lunch time, to Netlavaca, where, wanting to feed us, the Marquis looked at him and considered that, to enter that town, we had entered by many bridges and, to get out of it, we had to get out by as many, and that having removed and knocked down one or two on one side and two on another, they would leave us there isolated and could kill us, as it was said that the Indians had determined it to do while we eat; determined that later, without eating, we should go out, and then it was done and we came to sleep in Ixtapalapa, where there were also great signs and signals that they wanted to kill us, but they did not dare to attack, because God Our Lord allowed it and because we had great candle, notice and message.

(Tenochtitlan)

Another day, we entered Mexico and we stayed there for eight months, a little more or less, until the arrival of Pánfilo de Narváez, in which time great things happened that, not to extend, I leave them behind; When he arrived in this land, the Marquis needed to leave the city to go see the aforementioned Narváez and leave Don Pedro de Alvarado and the king's officials, of whom I was one, and another one hundred and thirty men to guard the city and Montezuma and the treasures of his majesty that had been collected. While the said Marquis on the coast of the sea, in conflict with the said Narváez, the city and all those in the region rose up and came upon us and gave us a very cruel war, in which they killed some Spaniards and wounded all the others that we were. And they kept us surrounded for many days in a lot of work and danger. And one day, giving us a very hard fight and they had us in great danger, because they entered us from

many parts and they had burned the doors of the fort where we were, and being all tired and wounded, they did not lack but to enter and cut off our heads all, they set fire to the door; and suddenly they separated and left us without fighting any more, which was a great rest for us, because we no longer paid attention to the lives and we did account that they gave them to us. And after asking the leading Indians, who were captains, how they had left us, putting us in so much trouble and danger, they said that, at that time, that they entered us and had so much work, they saw a woman from Castile, very pretty and shining like the sun, and it threw handfuls of earth into their eyes and, seeing such a strange thing, they turned away and fled and left and left us. We were there, until the marquis returned, with a lot of work and the need to eat, because they didn't give it to us, nor did we dare to go out to find or buy.

When the marquis came, with the people he had brought and another very many of those that Narváez brought, and many horses and much artillery, entering this city later on the next day, the Indians rose again and wage cruel war, and in the first encounters, although many Indians died, some Spaniards and horses died and killed and they set fire to the fortress and room where we were, which burned for two days without being able to extinguish it; and we were hungry and we suffered a great need for supplies to eat and, although they made many war schemes and many and infinite ones to offend, the Indians and the Spaniards did very well, fighting bravely, everything was of no use;

(Death of Moctezuma)

The marquis agreed to ask Montezuma, who was in our company and room, to speak to his people and vassals, to leave that war and stubbornness, which they had taken, because he was sorry that so many of them died and it weighed him a lot, because there was no whether they were killed or hurt. The Montezuma told the marquis that he was very fond of that will and he would gladly speak to them; and then he went, from some azoteas, to speak to them, and the marquis entrusted certain gentlemen to look for him and kneel him, so that from below they would not hit him with an arrow, or with a dart, or a sling stone, that everything was thrown away; And although those who went with the said Montezuma took great care of what the said Marquis had sent them, as they arrived with the said Montezuma from the parapet of the azutea, and he began to shout to be heard, neither heard nor they understood, as there were a large number of people; And as they saw that amount of people in said azotea, they all straightened their shots there at the people, and no matter how much they guarded said Montezuma, they could not enough that they did not hit him with a stone, thrown with a sling, in the middle of the forehead, which then felt deadly. Taken to his room, known to the Marquis, it weighed him greatly and then came to see him and have him cured and consoled him a lot, making him understand how sorry he was for his illness. Montezuma thanked him and told the Marquis not to feel sorry for him, nor to take the trouble to heal him, that he was mortally wounded and He could not live and he was dying quickly; that he asked, by virtue of the Marquis, to favor and look out for his son Chimalpopoca, that he was his heir and the one who was to be Lord, and begged him that the services and good works he had done him, he would repay them by doing good and favoring his son. The marquis promised it, saying that it would

not be necessary, that God would give him health and he and his son would pay for the good works that he and the Spaniards had done and the services that his majesty and goodwill had shown. Within two or three days, he died; And since the marquis and all of us were so busy in the war, no agreement was reached and a great inconsiderate blunder was made, and it was that, having to cover up Montezuma's death, they put him in a sack and hit some Indians, from the who served Montezuma, who took him away; to whom, as the people of war saw him, they believed that we had killed him, and that night they all made great tears and with great ceremonies burned the body and made their gifts; But on another day from ahead, if they fought with great fury, they fought much harder and crudely from forward, so much so that the Marquis, seeing their pertinacity, tried to speak with them; and they did not want to accept any party, but told him that until they killed us all they would not stop, and even if eight hundred of them died for killing one of us, we would end up first of them, and this we knew.

(Fleeing Tenochtitlan)

The marquis seeing how much we had done during the days that we had to fight, and how tight we were and with how much danger and with how much hunger and lack of food, he agreed to leave the city and go out to the country; and he ordered that some wooden drawbridges be built to cross certain parts of the rivers that the Indians had knocked down, and in order to get out safer, he ordered that we go out one night, at midnight. Although the Indians were resting, they were not so careless that later they did not go with us and, some in canoes on the water and others on land, they began to hit us, which, as it was night, was a matter of pity and grief what was happening, what was seen or heard from those who died. And at three or four hours a day we arrived at a tower of idols, two leagues from Mexico, which was called Santa María de los Remedios, and the marquis and those who escaped, all wounded and so tired and dead from fighting, almost, like those who died. The marquis commanded to boast and remember those who escaped and were there; Four hundred and twenty-five men and twenty-three horses were found, all wounded. There were in Mexico, with the people that the marquis had brought, more than a thousand or a thousand and a hundred men and more than eighty horses. All the others died, without killing many other people in other parts and on the roads. Seeing the marquis the many people and horses that he had lost and how those who remained were all injured, he agreed to take the road to Tlaxcala, because he had left them for friends, and they had shown it. And in that war two or three thousand of them had been found, who had come with the marquis and had died a great number, or almost all of them; and also the son of Montezuma and two daughters died and a large number of service Indians, and Indian women who were with the Spaniards; and all the treasures and riches of his majesty and of the Spaniards, which had existed in the time that we had been on earth, were lost.

We left there another day, two hours before dawn, and although we got up very early, then we ran into warfare people from the Indians, who then began to surround us and come together with us, and as we were all wounded and so broken and afraid of In the past days, if they pressed us a lot, I think they would destroy us and kill us all, by saying and because it was night, and so, no day passed, more than ten or twelve that it took us to reach Tlaxcala, that

there was no great number of people above us, who many days had us surrounded and about to be lost and all killed. And miraculously Our Lord freed us and took us safely to Tlaxcala, where, if we found them at war, as we were tired and wounded, none of us would escape; But they, as good people, kept the peace and friendship that at the beginning they established with the Marquis, and they received us well and with much love, it being a pity to see which ones we were going, and they helped us with food and what we needed.

(Healing in Tlaxcala)

In Tlaxcala we spent a few days, healing the wounded and reforming ourselves from weakness and past work, and from there the marquis messengers imbued in the Villa Rica de la Veracruz, so that they could bring some people and horses and ammunition of whatever they wanted, which was brought; And since the Marquis did not set the time to start the war again and it seemed to him that every day he had a year, as he was hurt from the past, he ordered the people to get ready and reconfirmed those of Tlaxcala in their friendship, which They promised to be good and faithful friends and to give him great help from the people, to make the Cholula go to war; And there he determined to leave, with the Spaniards and horses that he had, and with the war people that those of Tlaxcala gave him, which would be more than three thousand men, and he agreed to enter through the towns subject to the province of Tepeaca, to where we arrived, we found them so on purpose and in so many people that they gave us many good days to do. Anyway, we reached a main town in the province, called Acacingo, where we settled real and from there we ran the city of Tepeaca and the entire province, and we waged war on them in such a way that we made them regret it. the past and asked for peace, which was accepted with the conditions that the marquis put on them.

At this time a condition of measles came, and it came so strong and so cruel that I believe more than a quarter of the people of Indians in the whole land died, which very much helped us to make war and was the cause let it end much sooner, because, as I have said, in this pestilence a great number of men and people of war died and many lords and captains and brave men, with whom we had to fight and have them as enemies; and miraculously Our Lord killed them and took them away from us.

Later the provinces and towns of Tecamachalco and Quechula and Tehuacán, Zapotitlán and Estecala and Cholula, Guaquechula and Mitlán, Napatlán de Tepeje or Chiautla and other infinite towns, who came from peace; and if all the things that happened were to be put in particular, it would be never ending.

And at this same time, prosecutors were dispatched to Castile and the island of Española, which were Alonso de Ávila and Diego de Ordaz and Alonso de Meza, and the dispatches that Alonso de Grado and I did. At this time too, the Marquis had ordered to cut a lot of oak wood in the mountains of Tlaxcala, to take the wood to Tezcucó and make brigs there, to enter Mexico through the lagoon. And all the said provinces and towns were appeased, and a large part of the land being subject, because, out of fear of war, many came to ask for peace and to see what they were sent, and if they asked for people of war they would give it to go against the rebels. And the marquis agreed to go to Mexico, or to go to Tezcucó, to make the said brigantines

there; and then he put it to work; and in all said wars I served with myself and horse and some servants, sometimes taking charge of horsemen. And at this time, the marquis agreed that one of the king's officials should go to the old Villa Rica, because certain ships had come, and that they stopped that there was no house where to unload what they were bringing, and so that the memory of the merchandise and things that they brought, so that his majesty would be served that they paid him rights of them, if he had a relationship where they were asked and the merchants were obliged, his majesty sending him to pay; and also, so that certain peoples, who were raised in the region of Villa Rica and had killed Hernán Martínez their captain, and more than twenty Spaniards went to find food for the people, to secure them and put them at peace, because the people were afraid of them; and for other things. Anyway, luckily, and because the marquis ordered it, I had to go and he made me leave a very good horse, which I had, which was not worth little on that occasion, saying that the ships had brought horses and they would provide me with another. To fulfill the captain's command, I went, although against me will and not without danger, because near the road there were many uprising peoples; and arrived at Villa Rica, I did all the things I was going to do, the best I could, and dispatched the ships; and finished dispatching, I turned. And I found the marquis and all the people in Mexico, who brought the war from the city on good terms and had them cornered to a part of the city, the Spaniards to the Indians; and within a few days, the lord caught fire and the Indians were destroyed.

Then the marquis went to Cuyoacán, leaving guard people in the city and in the brigs, where the spoil in Cuyoacán and riches of gold and silver, which were collected, were collected; and it was discussed about sending to his majesty, which with much more quantity, which was later collected, and that was done.

While there, the marquis agreed to imbiate leading people, who would go with a few people to visit the provinces, and see how they were, if they were of peace or war, so that they could be warned and they were to his majesty, and to be aware they would leave them their idols and the belief that they had and had our faith and belief, and to know the amount of the provinces and towns, and also to collect some gold, for the others that had been in the war, it was embiasse to his majesty. And of the few who were appointed by the said captain for this position, I was one of them. And I went with some companions, who went with me, and visited many provinces and towns, fulfilling what the Marquis ordered me to do, doing what I was in charge of doing very well, persuading those from the said provinces and towns to be Christians and leave the idols and persevere in the service of his majesty and in the friendship of the Spaniards; and I made a copy of the number of the residents of each town, in which I worked a lot.

Later, just as a factor of his majesty and ruler, I went to have attorneys sent to his majesty, and all the gold and silver and riches that had been in the war and collected in the visitations were taken to him, which was done . And as an officer of his majesty, together with the marquis and the other officials, we wrote to his majesty of all that happened on earth, and in the terms that remained, supplicating some things that were convenient to his service, for the good of the earth. . And it was with the said service and present and relations Alonso de Ávila y Quiñones, which, for our sins and misfortune, the French took and arrested them.

Later, the said marquis agreed that we should found a city, and it seemed to him and to all the main people of his company that it should be founded in the middle and heart of Mexico, and that's what it was done; and as official and ruler of the king, I helped to draw and order, and I was one of the first to make a house in Mexico, after it was ordered and drawn. After this and in this half time, the Marquis saw that many provinces and towns towards the coast of the North Sea, especially the provinces of Pánuco and Tamoin and other towns, were uprising and rebelling and had not wanted to give obedience. to his majesty, he agreed to go to conquer and pacify them, and among those who went with him, I was the captain of horsemen and spent a lot for the said trip, because the nails and horseshoes were worth a weight of silver and it was worth a horse thousand pesos. In that trip we had many wars and we appeased and conquered many provinces and towns and we had many great jobs, and I served a lot, always being the captain of horsemen, and many times I went to make entries and was in charge of people from a horse and foot.

After conquering and pacifying the said provinces, the towns of Huchitepec and Totonilco and Oainatla rebelled, and others to them comarcas, that being of peace and having given obedience to their majesty and the marquis in their name, they rose up and began to make The marquis was in the provinces of Pánuco, to which I went as captain of horsemen, in which we went through many dangers and tasks until we conquered and pacified them, which, being the very rough land of mountains, we suffered many jobs and dangers. And in that war I spent and lost a lot, because one day the enemies waited for us in a step and hit us in the rear, and did us a lot of damage, and they took me there gold and silver and clothes and other things, which was worth more than two thousand pesos, and others killed and many horses died. And from here we went back to where the marquis was, in the towns of Tuzapa, and he went along the coast to Villar Rica Vieja, and from there he came to this city of Temistitlán Mexico, and to me and Rodrigo Álvarez Chico, overseer, he imbued us from the town of Tonatico, and ordered us to come and bring in the town and people that we had left in Cuyoacán, who were still there, and so that they might be branding themselves as slaves and selling some Indians, who had been taken in the said wars of Guchitepeque and the other towns, because they had rebelled; which was done as the marquis commanded.

After what was said, I returned again to the said province of Pánuco, at the command of the said Marquis, and a lot of other people, while Francisco de Garay came there.

After what was said, the towns of Tecomastlavaca and Huantepeque and Gustlavaca and Quintepeque, and many other comarca towns having risen, and 20 Spaniards died and burned crosses and sautéed and ran Spaniards who passed through their lands, the Marquis sent many messengers to them, sending them that they come to give an account of the things they did and had done, and for what reason they had risen; and coming, that he would hear them, and not coming, that he would proceed against them and send people to war against them. Nothing took advantage of his commandments or requirements, they did not want to come, which, seeing, before that land spread and warmed up with war, he agreed to imbibe people on horseback and on foot against them, and he named me captain, to go to that day and make war, if they did not want to come in peace. And so I went with people on horseback and Spanish foot, and many people of Indians from this city and from other regions; and because we found them rebellious

and with their stubbornness, and they did not want to accept any party, we waged war on them for many days, until we seized their lord and other leaders, who had been the main cause of the uprising; and I did justice to them, and many others were punished, without taking their lives, for which all the others came in peace, which was granted to them, admonishing them to be good and not rise again, because, if they rose He had to return and leave no man alive; and there they were punished and safe and settled in their towns, and all those of the region warned and chastened not to do the similar thing; In all of which, I served His Majesty with many work and dangers and many expenses that I made on this journey.

After what was said, I was appointed and appointed and persuaded twice, by this city and by all the cities and towns of the whole earth, to go to Spain as attorney general of all, once in the year of one thousand and five hundred and twenty nine; and in both voyages, the ships in which he was traveling crossed the land; they got lost and shattered, and once I got out and swam away and thirty-five people drowned, a little more or less, and both times, I lost everything else I was carrying, although due to the said shipwrecks and loss I did not stop continuing my way, so that what I was in charge would be carried out.

And both times, I arrived and was in court for the necessary time, and I related to his majesty the things of these parts, and I begged him to have the necessary things provided, to settle them according to the instructions and chapters that he carried. And the first time, I bargained for an Audience to come and that the distribution be made by request, which I wanted His Majesty provided at my request; and the first hearers brought the repartimiento, as it seemed from the instructions and provisions brought by the said hearers, and both times I worked my best to get it done and dispatched and provided whatever was in the service of God Our Lord and his majesty and the good of all this kingdom and republic. And although both times, they offered me salaries and promised great pay, later, for not having their own or the possibility to do so, they gave me up to a thousand pesos that everything else, which was a large amount, I put from my property.

Item. I have been a ruler of this city for 22 years, provided by his majesty the first and oldest ruler in it and in the said office and position, in the things that have been offered to the service of his majesty, I have always been very prepared and advanced so that they were made and provided, and even what was convenient for the good of the republic.

Item. Always, since the Marquis came to this land, I had a house and expenses with servants and people who came to my company, in times of war; and I have had much better, after this city was populated by the Spanish. And I have always had many servants and many horses and weapons in any case, being prepared to go, if the natives rise up or if the governor or hearers mention me, to go serve somewhere. I have been married seventeen years ago; I have a daughter married to Ginés de Mercado, a noble man and an honest man, who have three daughters and a son.

Item. I brought three nieces from Castile and married them to the honorable men of this city, to whom I gave what they had; and they have many sons and daughters, so the land is populated,

and I have married other servants who are in this city, all of which without the favor of your lordship, is worth little and is a little air, and therefore, I beg you to use me of his customary clemency and kindness.

The Indians that I have had and have, are a quarter of Tlapa, which is worth, what they give, six hundred pesos, a little more or less, I had half, which the Audiencia gave me, first the other quarter and, because your majesty He gave for none what they gave, having informed His Majesty that they had given it to his servants and friends and relatives, he ordered it to be taken away, without I being a servant or a relative, with only one fourth part and taken away the other.

I have the town of Churubusco that, whatever it gives, will be worth one hundred and sixty pesos worth of mines, very little more or less.

I have the town of Cuametitlán, which is valued at sixteen loads of clothing, every eighty days, and certain sowing and other trifles; But your lordship know that they are so few and so miserable, that if they only had a year to complete it, they would go away and depopulate all of them and, understanding this and to bear with them, I commit (did I forgive?) the clothes because they gave me eighty men on duty in the Ayoteco mines, which are inside their homes and never do half of it; and another day ten, and there they always make great mistakes, and if I did not hide and spend with them, they would become depopulated and there would be no one who would serve me in anything.

Dr. Pedro Vázquez de Oropesa was a native of Torralba, near the town of Oropesa, from where he took the Oropesa surname, although his were Vázquez and Contreras. He was a schoolboy at the Colegio Mayor de San Bartolomé in Salamanca, where he took the scholarship in the year four hundred and seventy-two, and from there he left for the Royal Council of Castile, in the time of the Catholic Monarchs, Don Fernando and Doña Isabel. The queen embiole the provision of some loans and did not want them, or any other ecclesiastical benefit; The Archbishopric of Toledo offered him and he did not want to accept it either, although he spent fifteen days arguing about it. He retired to Torralba, and there he was very visited by all kinds of people; and passing by the emperor Carlos Quinto, he renounced half of the benefits that they gave him, saying the other half was enough, because it was not useful. He died in the said place of Torralba and ordered to make a hospital of his goods and three chaplaincies for his soul and for the kings; This refers to Dr. Pedro de Salazar y de Mendoza, penitentiary canon of the Holy Church of Toledo, in the chronicle he made of the great cardinal of Spain, Don Pedro González de Mendoza, archbishop of Toledo, printed in the same city of Toledo, year of one thousand and six hundred and twenty-five, in the second book, Chapter sixty-five, in the folio four hundred and fifteen and sixteen. (Rubric.)