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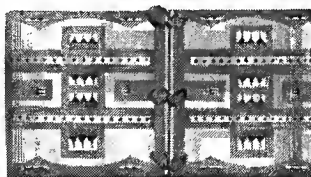
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PUBLICATIONS OF THE
ACADEMY OF PACIFIC COAST HISTORY

VOL. 2

No. 3

EXPEDITION TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY IN 1770

DIARY OF PEDRO FAGES

EDITED BY

HERBERT EUGENE BOLTON

Professor of American History, University of California

under the name of Don Pedro Fages

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

JULY, 1911

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(Founded 1907.)

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THE ACADEMY OF PACIFIC COAST HISTORY

INTRODUCTION.

It has been thought hitherto that the first inland exploration of the country between Monterey and the head of the bay of San Francisco, and of the eastern shore—except for the short distance which may have been traversed by the reconnoitering party sent out in 1769 by Portolá—was that made by Pedro Fages in March, 1772. But the diary here published¹ shows that in November, 1770, Fages led a party of explorers northward from Monterey to the Santa Clara Valley (“la Cañada del Puerto de San Francisco”), down that valley to the head of the bay, thence along the eastern shore two days’ journey to a point not far from Alameda, the course to this place being much the same as that followed in 1772. Before turning back the party ascended a hill and descried the north arm of the bay projecting far to the east and communicating with that at their left. Fages’s statement in the letter of transmittal of the diary to the viceroy, to the effect that his men went about seven leagues farther than the explorers had gone in the previous year, helps to fix the limit of the exploration of 1769 on the eastern shore.

The expedition of 1770 was undertaken independently of the viceroy’s order of November 12 of the same year, requiring that the port of the bay of San Francisco should be explored (that order did not reach Monterey until May 21, 1771),² and appears to have been made at Fages’s own initiative. It seems strange that, in their diaries of the expedition of 1772, over much

¹ Since the above was written a translation of the diary, made by Miss Emma Helen Blair, has been published, without the Spanish text, in Richman’s *California under Spain and Mexico*. The original diary was discovered by the present writer, through whom Mr. Richman procured his transcript.

² Fages to the viceroy, June 20, 1771, MS. Archivo General, Mexico, Californias, vol. 66. It will be noted that, in their letters of transmittal, neither Fages nor the viceroy refers to any order requiring an exploration.

the same ground as that traversed in 1770, neither Crespi nor Fages mentions the earlier journey.³ Aside from the references to it in the two letters of transmittal herein mentioned, one contemporary allusion to the 1770 diary has been noted by the present writer. This is in an unsigned manuscript description of the bay of San Francisco made in the year 1776 and now preserved in the archive of the extinguished College of Santa Cruz, of Querétaro.*

Of the diary two manuscripts have been found by the editor. The original, the basis of the present version and here designated as *O*, is in the Archivo General y Público, Mexico, Sección de Californias, volume 66. It is filed in an *expediente* of original correspondence between the viceroy, Fages, Costansó, and Joseph de Gálvez, relative to the California expeditions and establishments during the period 1769-1772. In the same *expediente* is contained the original of the letter of transmittal of the diary to the viceroy, which is printed herewith. The other manuscript of the diary, here designated as *C*, is an official copy contained in the same archive, Sección de Correspondencia de los Virreyes, Croix, 1770-1771, 4/14, ff. 385-389. It is a duplicate of the copy which was sent by the viceroy to the king (as "Copia Numero 2º") on August 26, 1771, with a despatch entitled *Extracto de las ultimas noticias de San Diego, Monterrey, y de las disposiciones dadas para auxiliar aquellos nuevos é importantes establecimientos comunicadas por el Comandante de aquel Real Presidio de San Carlos, el Padre Presidente de las Misiones, don Juan Perez y don Felipe Barri.*" (*Ibid.*, ff. 381-383.)

The original diary is written with the abbreviations characteristic of the period, but is here printed in extension, in keeping with the style of this publication. Otherwise the spelling, punctuation, and paragraphing of the original have been preserved in the Spanish text. In the translation, however, modern rules of punctuation and capitalization have been the standard. The

³ For Crespi's diary, see Palou, *Noticias de la Nueve California* (San Francisco, 1874), iii, 3-24.

⁴ The allusion therein contained is as follows: "Segun los Diarios de las Expediciones de tierra que se han hecho en los años pasados de 69, 70, 72, y 74 dirigidas al descubrimiento, y registro del gran Puerto, y Río de Nuestro Padre San Francisco, etc."

marginal summaries of distances traversed, here printed in italics, are lacking in *O* and are added from *C*, where the daily distance is recorded on the left margin and the total distance from Monterey on the right. In one instance the reading of the transcript of *O* has been emended by that of *C*, and in another by that of the *Extracto*.

H. E. B.

SALIDA QUE HIZO EL THENIENTE DE VOLUNTARIOS
DE CATALUÑA DON PEDRO FAGES CON SEIS
SOLDADOS Y UN ARRIERRO.

Dia 21 de Noviembre de 1770.—Salimos de Monterrey como á las 11. del dia, é inmediatamente descavezamos un grande estero, y tomamos el rumbo del NE. y a las tres leguas de marcha nos paramos a la otra parte del Rio Carmelo que por equivocacion se llamó a la primera entrada de Monterrey, toda esta jornada se ofrecio pasar de lomas medianas parte de buena tierra y parte arenisca.

Dia 22 de Noviembre.—Salimos mui de mañana y atravezamos el llano del mencionado rio y a las quatro leguas nos metimos en un arroyo sin agua corriente; era este mui poblado de alisos, ensinos, y otro[s] arboles que no supimos conocer, vimos muchas veredas de osos por entre medio de las matas, y solo la que seguimos de gentiles, anduvimos por este arroyo cosa de una legua, y siguiendo el proprio rumbo, por la ladera de una loma, encumbramos en lo alto de ella desde donde divisamos un espacioso valle, cuio ancho en ciertos parages era quatro leguas corria este de NO. SE. bajamos por la ladera de una loma, y a medio quarto de legua llegamos a un corto valle que corria de NE. SO. en el que hizimos macion: este tenia un arroyito de agua que a corta distancia espirava entre sus proprias¹ arenas su ancho como 200 varas tomó nombre de La Cañadita, la jornada fue de cinco leguas.

A La Cañadita 5 leguas. De Monterrey 8 leguas.

Dia 23 de Noviembre.—Salimos del Real de la Cañadita, y a la media legua de marcha fuimos á dar a la cañada grande que

¹ The editor's transcript of *C* has "costas" in place of "propias," which is evidently an error.

EXPEDITION WHICH THE LIEUTENANT OF VOLUNTEERS OF CATALUÑA, DON PEDRO FAGES, MADE WITH SIX SOLDIERS AND ONE MULETEER.

November 21, 1770.—We set out from Monterey about eleven o'clock in the morning, and immediately went round the head of a large estuary. Taking the direction of the northeast, after marching three leagues we stopped on the other side of the Carmelo River, which, on the first entrance, was erroneously called that of Monterey. Throughout this day's journey we had to cross medium-sized hills, part of good soil, part sandy.

November 22.—We set out very early in the morning, crossed the plain of the river mentioned, and, after going four leagues, entered a water-course without running water. It was thickly grown with alders, live-oaks, and other trees which we were unable to recognize. We saw many bear's trails in the midst of the thickets, but of trails of heathen only the one which we were following. We travelled by this water-course about a league, and, continuing in the same direction up the slope of a hill, we reached the top of it, whence we saw in the distance a spacious valley whose breadth in certain places was four leagues. It ran from northwest to southeast. We went down the slope of a hill, and at an eighth of a league arrived at a small valley running from northeast to southwest, in which we halted. It had a small rivulet of water, which, at a short distance, disappeared in its own sands. The width of the valley was about two hundred yards. It was given the name of *La Cañadita*. The day's journey was five leagues.

To La Cañadita, 5 leagues. From Monterey, 8 leagues.

November 23.—We left the camp of *La Cañadita*, and, after a march of half a league, came to the large valley which we had

divisamos de lo alto de la loma, la atravezamos que nos costó tres leguas: vimos al paso muchas manadas de verrendos, y algunas de ellas pasarian de 50. tambien vímos muchos anzares, de estos se mataron quatro: la tierra de esta cañada era mui buena atravesamos desde este parage una cañadita llena de tular con una poza de agua dulce que había á mano derecha, a breve rato se nos ofreció atravesar un arroyo mui poblado de alisos, este tenía una poza mui grande de agua dulce, entramos despues por un derrame de la sierra que teníamos delante era mui poblado de robles, y tenía bastantes pozas de agua dulce, y a la circunferencia de ellas pobladas de tule: a corta distancia de estas paramos en el recodo de una loma por el pie de la qual corria [un] pequeño arroyito que escasamente pudieron verer las bestias. La jornada de este día fué de quatro leguas. Rumbo del NE.

En la tarde de este día se reconocio por el rumbo del NE. como cosa de dos leguas subiendo por una loma bastante penosa del alto de este se vió una infinidad de sierras que atravesamos² por entre medio de nuestro rumbo las que nos obligaron a retroceder. Se llamó este Parage de los Berrendos.

A Las Pozas 4 leguas. De Monterrey 12 leguas.

Día 24 de Noviembre.—Salimos de este real y desandando lo andado de una legua que havíamos caminado el dia antes, tomamos el rumbo del NE. por la cañada que el dia antes atravesamos, por el pie de las lomas de mano derecha que la ceñían, dejando á mano izquierda muchos tulares atravezados de muchas veredas de osos, y al remate de dichos había una poza mui grande, a la cavezera de esta una rancheria de gentiles en la que vimos como 50 almas, dos de esta gentilidad andaban con dos balcitas cazando patos, en la poza, por varias diligencias que hizimos no pudimos lograr á manzarlos todo era dar alaridos, y dos de ellos arrancaron por el llano á havisar a dos rancherias mui crecidas de nuestro paso las que estaban á nuestra vista en medio de él, de que resultó que salieron á vernos a lo largo y se quedaron mui admirados de ver que un soldado al paso mató nueve anzares de tres tiros, continuamos nuestro camino, y a las 5 leguas de haver

² The editor's transcript of *C* has "atravesaban" in place of "atravesamos," which seems to make better sense. This reading has been followed in the translation.

seen from the top of the hill. We crossed it at a cost of three leagues' [march], seeing on the way many herds of antelopes, some of them exceeding fifty. We saw also many geese, of which four were killed. The soil of this valley was very good. From this place we passed through a small valley full of reeds and with a small pool of fresh water at the right. Shortly after, we had to cross a water-course thickly grown with alders, and having a very large pool of fresh water. Afterward we went up an acclivity of the mountain which was before us. It was thickly grown with oaks, and had numerous pools of fresh water on the margins of which reeds were growing. A short distance from these pools we stopped in the cove of a hill at whose foot ran a small rivulet which scarcely watered the animals. This day's journey was four leagues, direction northeast.

In the afternoon of this day a reconnaissance was made for about two leagues toward the northeast, going up a very difficult hill. From the top of it was seen an infinite number of mountains which cut right across our path, and which obliged us to go back. This place was named *Parage de los Berrendos* (Place of the Antelopes).

To Las Pozas, 4 leagues. From Monterey, 12 leagues.

November 24.—We left this camp and, retracing a league which we had travelled the day before, went to the northeast by the valley which we had crossed on that day, passing along the foot of the hills which encircle it on the right, and leaving on the left many reed patches crossed by numerous bear trails. At the place where they end there was a very large pool, and at the head of this a village of heathen, in which we saw about fifty souls. Two of these heathen went about with two little rafts, hunting ducks on the pool. We were not able, by the various efforts which we made, to quiet them. All [they did] was to shout, while two of them hastened off across the plain to inform two very large villages of our passing; these villages were in sight, midway of our march; consequently they turned out to see us at long range, and were very much surprised to see a soldier kill in passing nine geese at three shots. We continued on our way, and, after having gone five leagues, halted on a knoll

andado paramos en una lomita pegada en el mismo valle entre medio de dos ojitos de mui buena agua. El Real de los Ojitos.

Al Real de los Ojitos 5 leguas. De Monterrey 17 leguas.

Dia 25 de Noviembre.—Salimos del Real de los Ojitos y atravezamos unas lomas medianas que teniamos pegadas al real, y fuimos á dar a la propria cañada del NO. toda esta jornada fue la tierra llana, y buena, con muchos robles y algunos ensinos, a mano derecha dejamos un arroyo que salía de la sierra mui poblado de alisos pero sin agua: la sierra que ibamos dejando a mano derecha estaba mui pelada teniendo muchos crestones de panino que hacian diferentes vísos, y digeron algunos de los soldados que parecia tener indicios de minerales, por cuio motivo mandé que se recogieran algunos pedazos³; este día andubimos 5 leguas paramos dentro de una loma de mano derecha que formava un corto arroyito de mui buena agua suficiente para nosotros y las bestias.

Al Real del Arroy[ito] 5 leguas. De Monterrey 22 leguas.

Dia 26 de Noviembre.—Salimos mui de mañana fuimos siguiendo la propria cañada bien que ya torcia rumbo al NNO. andubimos como cosa de 4 leguas de tierra buena poblada de robles, encinos, y otros arboles que no supímos conocer, al paso divisamos una rancheria de gentiles montarases mui crecida, y al querernos arrimar a ella se huian, sin embargo, con los muchos alagos que les hizimos, logramos amanzarlos, y que recibieran algunas sartas de vídrios y cintas, vimos asi mismo otras dos rancherias cortas, y algunas humaderas a un lado, y otro de la cañada, nos siguieron quatro gentiles hasta que nos paramos en la cavesa del estero del Puerto de San Francisco al lado de un rio que tenia algunas pozas de agua dulce mui buena.

Al Estero de San Francisco 4 leguas. De Monterrey 26 leguas.

Dia 27 de Noviembre.—Salimos mui de mañana atravezando la cañada rumbo del NE. que nos costó como dos leguas descavezamos muchos esteros, que salian del grande, tomamos el rumbo del Norte, y a una legua se ofreció pasar un arroyo mui poblado de alisos, y otros arboles sin agua, y cerca de este una laguna dulce

³ The editor's transcript of *C* has "pedacitos" in place of "pedazos."

close to the same valley between two small springs of very good water.

To the Real de los Ojitos, 5 leagues. From Monterey, 17 leagues.

November 25.—We left the Real de los Ojitos, crossed some medium-sized hills which were close to our camp, and came to the same valley of the northwest. During this whole day's journey the land was level and good, with many oaks and some live-oaks. On the right we left a water-course which came from the mountain. It was thickly grown with alders, but without water. The mountain which lay at our right was very bare, having many large outcroppings of rock deposits (*panino*) which presented different lusters. Some of the soldiers said that it showed signs of minerals; for this reason I ordered that some pieces should be picked up. This day we went five leagues, stopping on a hill to the right, where was formed a small rivulet of very good water sufficient for ourselves and the animals.

To the Real del Arroy[i]to, 5 leagues. From Monterey, 22 leagues.

November 26.—We set out very early in the morning, following the same valley, although the direction now changed to the north-northwest. We travelled some four leagues over good country covered with oaks, live-oaks, and other trees which we did not recognize. On the way we saw a very large village of wild heathen, and when we wished to approach it they fled. However, by dint of our coaxing them freely we succeeded in quieting them and in getting them to accept some strings of glass beads and some ribbons. We saw also two other small villages, and some smokes on both sides of the valley. Four heathen followed us until we stopped at the head of the estuary of the port of San Francisco, by the side of a river which had some pools of very good fresh water.

To the Estero de San Francisco, 4 leagues. From Monterey, 26 leagues.

November 27.—We set out very early in the morning, crossing the valley toward the northeast at a cost of about two leagues' [travel]. We went round the heads of many estuaries which branched out from the great one. Turning north, at a league we had to cross a water-course thickly grown with alders

mui buena la que tenia su circunferencia matizada con juncos, eneas, y muchos pastos, entre los cuales havia abundancia de anzares, y logramos matar 7. vimos pegados a la laguna muchos gentiles afables y placenteros, a los que regalamos de algunas sartas de vidrio, y ellos nos correspondieron con algunos plumages, y anzares rellenos de zacate, de los que se valen para coger infinidad de estas aves: a las tres leguas de este parage pasamos un arroyo de bastante agua mui cubierto de alisos, laureles y otros arboles que no conocimos y paramos en un llano pegado a el.

Toda la jornada de este dia fue de seis leguas, la tierra, mui buena y llena de grietas que se cruzaban en todos sentidos pasamos dos arroyitos de mui buena agua y toda la jornada fuimos dejando a mano derecha unas lomas medianas de buena tierra y por las laderas de unas y otras sembradas de mucho[s] laureles.

Dia 28 de Noviembre.—Salieron quatro soldados á explorar el terreno y a la noche volvieron diciendo que havian andado como 7 leguas rumbo del Norte que la tierra era mui buena y llana, y que se havian subido en lo alto de un cerro, que no habian podido ver el fin de un estero, que tenian delante, y se comunicava con el que se nos quedava á mano izquierda, y que havian visto muchos rastros de patas hendidas que crehian eran de cibolos, y que pegados a las lomas que dejavan a mano derecha havia algunos ojitos de agua y que havian atravezado dos arroyitos de ella. Tambien digeron que havian visto la voca del estero que creian era la que entrava por la bahia del Puerto de San Francisco lo que afirmo por haverlo visto.

Día 29 de Noviembre.—En este día se determinó retroceder por ver que se nos frustrava el poder pasar al otro lado de la Punta de los Reyes sin que gastasemos muchos dias, y el cuidado que tenia tambien del real, cultivo de tierra, y cria de ganado, desandando lo que teniamos andado en el dia 27. paramos en el mismo parage sin la menor novedad: esta jornada fue de las mismas seis leguas: al paso del camino cerca de un arroyito nos.

and other trees, but without water. Near it was a very good fresh lagoon whose margin was adorned with rushes, cat-tails, and extensive meadows, where there was an abundance of geese, of which we succeeded in killing seven. We saw, close to the lagoon, many pleasant and affable heathen, to whom we presented some strings of glass beads. They reciprocated with plumes and geese stuffed with straw, which they employed to catch an infinite number of these birds. Three leagues from this place we crossed a stream containing plenty of water and thickly covered with alders, laurels, and other trees which we did not know, and we stopped in a plain close to it.

The whole journey for this day was six leagues; the soil very good and full of fissures which crossed each other in every direction. We crossed two small streams of very good water, and during the whole day's journey we passed, on the right, medium-sized hills of good soil, one and another of whose slopes were heavily grown with laurels.

November 28.—Four soldiers set out to explore the country, and at night returned saying that they had travelled about seven leagues to the north; that the country was very good and level; that they had climbed to the top of a hill but had not been able to see the end of an estuary which lay before them and which communicated with the one which lay at our left; that they had seen many tracks of cloven hoofs which they thought were of buffalo; that close to the hills which they passed at the right there were some springs of water; and that they had crossed two small streams of it. They said, also, that they had seen the mouth of the estuary, which they thought to be the one which entered through the bay of the port of San Francisco. This I confirm through having seen it.

November 29.—This day, seeing that we were unable to cross to the other side of the Punta de los Reyes without spending many days, and because of the anxiety which I felt for the camp, the cultivation of the land, and the raising of the stock, it was decided to go back. Retracing the distance covered on the 27th, we stopped in the same place without the least incident happening. This day's travelling was over the same six leagues. At

salieron como veinte gentiles, y algunas mugeres empezaron á festejarnos con vayne, y muchos ademanes de alegría, una de las mugeres nos hizo una arenga bastante larga, les dímos algunos abalorios, y ellos correspondieron con plumages: vimos este día muchas humaderas.

Día 30 de Noviembre.—De la caveza del estero salimos temprano y andubimos 4 leguas pasamos por el costado de una corta ranchería en donde havia quatro mugeres, y tres parbulos las quales se asustaron, y nos dieron dos anzares rellenos paramos en el mismo citio que ocupamos de donde salimos el día 26.

Día 1º de Diziembre.—Salimos ya con el sol alto por haver faltado algunas bestias las que encontramos por el camino que nos volvimos. Este día anduvimos 5 leguas las mismas del día 25 de Noviembre.

Día 2 de Diziembre.—Salímos mui de mañana la buelta del SE. y andubimos 5 leguas, sin la menor novedad, la tierra la misma del día 25 de Noviembre y paramos como media legua del Parage de los Ojitos del lado de Monterrey en unas pozitas de un pequeño arroyo.

Día 3 de Diziembre.—Salimos una hora el sol alto, por haver nos faltado dos bestias las que se encontraron a la legua de haver salido, atravezamos la cañada dejando a mano izquierda la rancheria, poza, y tular, y á mano derecha las rancherias que haviamos visto el 24 de Noviembre y aun nos parecieron mucho mas grandes: a la[s] 5 leguas de camino llegamos al Real de la Cañadita en donde hizimos alto, y paramos nuestro campo.

Día 4 de Diziembre.—Salimos mui de mañana subiendo por la ladera que haviamos bajado el día 22 de Noviembre y fuimos á dar al arroyo que atravezamos el mencionado día, atravezando el llano en el que vimos muchas vandadas de anzares, llegamos al rio lo atravezamos por el mismo parage que a la subida y a

the crossing of the road near a rivulet twenty heathen came out to us, and some women began to entertain us with a dance and many gestures expressing joy, one of them making a long harangue. We gave them some beads and they reciprocated with plumes. On this day we saw many smokes.

November 30.—From the head of the estuary we set out early and travelled four leagues, passing by the edge of a small village in which there were four women and three small children. The women were afraid and gave us two stuffed geese. We stopped in the same place which we occupied [on the 25th] and from which we set out on the 26th.

December 1.—We set out when the sun was already high, because some of the animals were missing, and found them on the road on which we were returning. We travelled this day five leagues, the same ones as on the 25th of November.

December 2.—We set out on the return toward the southeast very early in the morning, and travelled five leagues without the least incident, the country being the same as that of the 25th of November, and stopped about half a league from the Parage de los Ojitos, at one side of Monterey, beside some little ponds of a small water-course.

December 3.—We set out when the sun was an hour high because two animals were missing. They were found a league after starting. We crossed the valley, leaving on the left the village, the pond, and the reed patch, and on the right, the villages which we had seen on the 24th of November, and [which now] appeared even much larger. Having travelled five leagues we reached the Real de la Cañadita, where we halted and made camp.

December 4.—We started early in the morning, going up the slope which we had descended on November 22, and continued until we reached the water-course which we crossed that day, passing over the plain, in which we saw many flocks of geese. We reached the river, crossed it in the same place as on going up, and, after marching eight leagues, arrived at this royal presidio

las 8 leguas de marcha llegamos a este Real Precidio de San Carlos de Monterrey, en el que no encontramos novedad alguna: habiendo hecho esta salida en servicio de Su Magestad á fin de reconocer el terreno hasta el Puerto de San Francisco.

PEDRO FAGES. (Rúbrica)

[CARTA DE PEDRO FAGES AL VIRREY DANDO PARTE DE LA EXPLORACION DE LA BAHIA DE SAN FRANCISCO.]

Junio 20 de 71[1771].⁴

EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR,

Señor:

El dia 27 de Noviembre del proximo pasado año determiné con seis soldados y un arriero explorar las inmediaciones de este real precidio (dejando con toda seguridad el real que se podia cerrar con llave) lo que ejecute el mencionado dia tomando el rumbo del Nordeste, y a las dos jornadas dimos en la cañada del Puerto de San Francisco y siguiendo por esta cinco jornadas logramos llegar como siete leguas mas adelante de donde estuvieron el año pasado los exploradores de la expedicion: de lo alto de una loma de este parage se deviso una quantiosa vocana de estero que tendria al paracer mio, y de los soldados como trecientas varas, y como otras tantas asia dentro; otra de poco menos, por estas se introducian una infinidad de aguas del mar, las que formaban dos grandes esteros; el que teniamos á mano izquierda tendria la buelta del Sur como quince leguas, y del otro divisamos como veinte que corria hacia Levante de todo lo qual inferimos ser el estero del Puerto de San Francisco de que habla el derrotero de Cabrera Bueno, á este no le pudimos ver el fin, y esto nos obligó á retroceder por atravesarsenos por delante. A los catorce dias de haver salido llegamos al real sin encontrar la menor novedad.

Yncluío á Vuestra Excelencia un plano de las obras del real

⁴ This phrase is apparently an annotation made in the viceroy's secretariat, and not a part of the original document.

EXPEDITION OF PEDRO FAGES TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY, 1770. 17

of San Carlos de Monterrey, where we found that nothing whatever had happened, having made this expedition in the service of His Majesty for the purpose of exploring the country to the port of San Francisco.

PEDRO FAGES. (Rubric)

[LETTER OF PEDRO FAGES TO THE VICEROY, REPORTING THE EXPLORATION OF THE BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO.]

June 20, [17]71.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

Sir :

On the 27th of November of last year I decided to explore, with six soldiers and one muleteer, the country surrounding this royal presidio, leaving the camp, which could be locked up, entirely secure. I did this on the day mentioned, going northeast, and after two days' travel we struck the valley of the port of San Francisco. Following this for five days we succeeded in going about seven leagues beyond the place where the explorers of the expedition of the previous year were. From the top of a hill at this place there was seen a large estuary mouth, which, as it appeared to me and to the soldiers, was about three hundred yards [wide] and reached about the same distance inland, and another a little narrower. Through these mouths ran a great quantity of water from the sea, forming two large estuaries. The one which we had at our left must have turned south about fifteen leagues. Of the course of the other to the east, we saw about twenty [leagues]. From all this we inferred that it was the estuary of the port of San Francisco of which the itinerary of Cabrera Bueno speaks. Of it we could not see the end, which made it necessary for us to turn back, for it lay across our path. Fourteen days after setting out we arrived at camp, finding that nothing whatever had happened.⁵

I enclose for Your Excellency a diagram of the works of the

⁵ He might have meant without incident during the expedition, but from the entry in the diary for December 4 I infer that the rendering above gives his meaning.

sin estar comprendida la casa del hortelano, y la casa de guardia del almacén [de] la polvora, que ambas, y cada una de por sí ponen quatro varas en quadro: todas las casas están embarradas y blanqueadas por dentro y fuera también incluío una noticia del cultivo del trigo que se há adelantado, junto con una relacion de lo que há trabajado el maestro herrero Juan Chacon; y el diario del Puerto de San Francisco.

Dios guarde la importante vida de Vuestra Excelencia los muchos años que deseo. Real Precidio de San Carlos de Monterrey, y Junio 20 de 1771 años.

EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR,
A los pies de Vuestra Excelencia
su mas atento servidor y subdito.
PEDRO FAGES.
(Rúbrica)

EXCELENTISIMO SEÑOR MARQUES DE CROIX.

[Al reverso dice:]

Monterrey y Junio 20 de 1771.

Don Pedro Fages.

Yncluyendo el plano de aquel presidio, y dando parte del descubrimiento de dos esteros; el uno de como 15 leguas y el otro de 20.

camp, which does not include the house of the gardener or that of the guard of the powder store, both of which, and each one separately, are being made four yards square. All of the houses are plastered and whitewashed inside and outside. I enclose also a statement of the progress which has been made in the cultivation of wheat, together with a report of what the master blacksmith, Juan Chacon, has done, and the diary of the [expedition to] the port of San Francisco.

May God preserve the important life of Your Excellency the many years which I desire. Royal Presidio of San Carlos de Monterrey, June 20, 1771.

Most Excellent Sir, at the feet of Your Excellency, your most attentive servant and subject.

PEDRO FAGES. (Rubric)

HIS EXCELLENCY THE MARQUES DE CROIX.

[Endorsement on the back:]

Monterey, June 20, 1881—Don Pedro Fages. Enclosing the diagram of that presidio, and reporting the discovery of two estuaries, one about fifteen and the other twenty leagues long.

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