what must be their sorrow, and also how great the distress of a large family whose only means of support was centered in the head of it; and so I repeat to Your Excellency my humble entreaties that through your intercession they may receive from the royal mercy the consolations which their sad condition so justly deserves.

May God protect Your Excellency’s life for many years.

New Orleans, January 15, 1779.
Most Excellent Sir, your most humble and faithful servant kisses your hand.

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ (Rubric).

M ost Excellent Señor Don Josef de Gálvez.

GÁLVEZ TO GÁLVEZ
January 15, 1779

No. 233.
Most Excellent Sir.

MY VERY DEAR SIR: I have now returned to this capital from the journey I made, as I reported to Your Excellency in despatch of the 9th of November, last year, to inspect the most advantageous lands on which the families of settlers should be established. I must inform Your Excellency that I have selected from among the various places which I have inspected, with all the reflection demanded by an object of this kind, a site on high ground near the confluence of the Amit and Yverville rivers, unknown until now by the people of the country. It was discovered accidentally by the English and Americans who fled to the dominions of His Majesty in the recent revolution, where they formed a small settlement to which they gave the name of Galveston (Villa de Gálvez) requesting me not to change its name inasmuch as having found this refuge during the time of my command, they wished this name to be an indication of the time of its founding.

The advantages offered by this settlement are many, the principal ones being the following: It is near this capital, not more than thirty leagues distant. It is possible to go there either by land or by water, which circumstance is very convenient for the transportation of goods; it is within the very island of New Orleans in the lake region where up to now we have not had any settlement, and for this reason all the island is exposed to being surprised by the Indians or by the English, who on this side could approach the capital without being detected. It is the only passage by water that these English have to go from Pensacola to Manchak or Natchez and, except through here or by the Mississippi, they are passable forests. Finally, these lands are capable of other and better crops which are assigned to him. which the crops of wheat will do well. The Indians has made a representation to the attention of His Majesty, and

THE REVOLUTIONARY E

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SIPPI VALLEY

How great the distress of a port was centered in the head-ency my humble entreaties that receive from the royal mercy the so justly deserves.

For many years.

Noble and faithful servant kisses

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ (Rubric).

Gálvez.

Gálvez

1779 270

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The unfortunate death of Captain Luis Andry, the only person there was in this country well-qualified to draw up plans accurately, makes it very difficult for me to fulfill the promises that I have made about this matter. The plan of Galveston and its neighborhood is now being drawn up by Don Josef Briones, pilotin del rey. When it is completed, I shall send it to Your Excellency, so that you may have a clear idea of this settlement, and subsequently I shall also give Your Excellency news of the families who have been able to settle there. For this purpose I am at present dispatching them as rapidly as possible in order that the planting season may not be over, and that the new settlers may have a harvest this year.

I desire that everything should be approved by His Majesty and by Your Excellency, and that Our Lord will preserve your life many years.

NEW ORLEANS, 15th of January, 1779.

Most Excellent Sir, your most humble servant kisses Your Ex-cellency's hand.

BERNARDO DE GÁLVEZ (Rubric).

GÁLVEZ TO GÁLVEZ

January 15, 1779

No. 227

Most Excellent Sir.

My Very Dear Sir: The interpreter for the nation of Arkansas Indians has made a representation to me that the 120 pesos annually, which are assigned to him by the regulation governing the obligations of this province, are not sufficient for his subsistence. This is due to the expense necessarily caused him by lodging in his house various Indians (when they visit that commandant). Consequently, I have increased the pay by four pesos additional allowance per month which he began to enjoy from the first of April of last year.

I inform Your Excellency of this so that you may please bring it to the attention of His Majesty, and seek his royal approval.

AGI, Arch. SD, 86-6-11.