

~~substances with which they were acquainted, and that the
natives were also, but, even if so, false. Tales concerning the
abundance of these among the Indians, may have been imposed
upon the Friar by the natives who inspected his service and
were told by him of how much gold and silver were valued
and made use of among the Indians.~~

The letter from Diaz was doubtless something of a disappointment to the viceroy, particularly with reference to the precious metals, but it still left room for hope: for it confirmed Niza's claim that he had discovered Cibola, and proved that the tales of the Seven Cities had found their realization there, at least in the matter of towns with several-storyed houses and a large population. ~~Diaz' re-~~
~~connaissance had begun in November, but was not heard from until the 20th of March; the report from it therefore came too late to have any effect upon the preparations that were being made for the great entrada; and, indeed, as we have seen, the army had already set out on its march for the north when it was met and joined at Chiametla by the returning Diaz.~~
~~and Zaldyvar.~~
~~to the viceroy the report which he had written to the Friar, and the Friar's Report, in San Pedro River.~~
~~We therefore return to the report which Fray Marcos de Niza had rendered in the previous summer, and shall consider the effect which it had in stimulating the already considerable interest in northern exploration.~~

Bandelier has rightly called attention to the care which Fray Marcos took to distinguish between what he had seen and what he had been told by the Indians; but so far as concerns the effect of his narrative upon the people of New Spain and New Galicia, the fact remains, as Winship points out, that, however careful the friar may have been in that respect, "he presented to the viceroy a report in which gold and precious stones abounded, and which stopped just within sight of the goal—the Seven Cities of Nuño de Guzman and of the Indian traders and story tellers. Friar Marcos had something to tell which interested his readers vastly more than the painful, wonderful story of Cabeza de Vaca. The very fact that he took it for granted, as he says in his report, that they would go to populate and rule over this land of the Seven Cities, with its doorways studded with ~~mm~~ turquoises, was enough to insure interest. He must, indeed, have been a popular preacher, and when the position of father provincial to the Franciscans became vacant, just now, brother Marcos, already high in the order and with all the fresh prestige of his latest achievements,

was evidently the subject for promotion. Castañeda, who is not the safest authority for events preceding the expedition, says that the promotion was arranged by the viceroy. This may have been so. His other statement is probable enough, that, as a result of the promotion, the pulpits of the order were filled with accounts of such marvels and wonders that large numbers were eager to join ~~in~~ in the conquest of this new land.**

Footnote

*Bu. Eth. Ann. Rep. XIV, pp. 363-4. See also *ibid.*, p. 476.

If, from the pulpit at large, and with the encouragement of the viceroy, the popular thirst for exploration and conquest was whetted with the hope that the new northern land might prove another Peru, it was no more than we should expect under the circumstances; for Mendoza had more than one reason for wishing to send forth an expedition, while Fray Marcos had witnessed one harvest of gold and silver, at the conquest of the Incas, and who could say that there was not the possibility of another in Cibola or Tonteac or Marata or Acus?

In several pages of his Historical Introduction, Winship discusses the testimony of witnesses to ~~the~~ ^{and falsehood} gross exaggeration on the part of Fray Marcos, regarding his discoveries, ^{other} ^{as} testimony to the effect of it all upon the people of New Spain.

As to those witnesses, it is sufficient here to comment, that they were for the most part evidently those brought forward by rivals of Mendoza, or those who had been disappointed at the outcome of Coronado's expedition, or who echoed that disappointment; and that their testimony against Fray Marcos is consequently of ^{somewhat} questionable weight. ~~as compared with the~~ ^{The latter's} ~~official~~ ^{Relacion} ~~mentions~~ ⁱⁿ no discovery of gold except as a matter of

hearsay, and, while as optimistic as we should expect it would be in view of the friar's knowledge of treasures discovered in Peru and New Spain, ~~it affords no proof of willful purpose intention to deceive.~~ Their allegations of falsehood and exaggeration ^{on his part} will therefore not here be rehearsed, and will be passed over without farther comment. But that many misunderstandings, exaggerations, and even falsifications concerning the friar's discoveries and reports arose as the story was carried from mouth to mouth throughout the provinces, there can be little doubt.

As to the effect of it all upon the people, Mr. Winship quotes, from ~~the~~ Zaragoza's edition of the *Tratado del Descubrimiento de las Yndias y su Conquista*, ^{Don Joan Suarez de Paraltan} ~~who was probably born~~

Footnote In the edition referred to, (1878), Zaragoza shows ^{that Don Joan was} born "in Mexico between 1535 and 1540, and probably ^{heard} the first of these five years."

infant, or possibly not yet born, at the time of ~~the~~ excitement over Fray Marcos' discoveries, ^{say 1535-60} but who must have become familiar with the facts a few years later, ~~and~~ and who wrote that "the country was so stirred up by the news which the friar had brought from the Seven Cities that nothing else was thought about."..... "The news from the Seven Cities inspired so eager a desire in every one that not only did the viceroy and the marquis (Cortes) make ready to start for there, but the whole country wanted to follow them so much that they traded for the licenses which permitted them to go as soldiers, and people sold these as a favor, and whoever obtained one of these thought that it was as good as a title of nobility at the least."?

Footnote *Bu. Eth. Ann. XIV, 364.

Not only did Mendoza and Cortes begin preparations for northern exploration, but Nuño de Guzman and the doughty conquistador, Pedro de Alvarado, were also claimants in the litigation which now followed as to the right of making the coveted exploration.

"We can not be certain what the plans of Cortes were, nor can we tell just how much he did to carry his schemes into execution, during the years from 1537 to 1540. Shortly after the men whom Cortes had established at Santa Cruz were recalled, a decree was issued, in the name of the audiencia, to forbid the sending of any expedition for exploration or conquest from New Spain. Cortes declared that he had at this time, 1538, nine good ships already built. He was naturally unwilling to give up all hope of deriving any benefit from his previous undertakings, as would be inevitable if Mendoza should succeed in his

projects for taking advantage of whatever good things could be found toward the north. The danger must have seemed clear so soon as he learned of the departure of Friar Marcos and the negro on their journey toward the Seven Cities. There is no means of knowing whether Cortes had learned of the actual discovery of Cibola, when he suddenly ordered Francisco de Ulloa to take three vessels and sail up the coast toward the head of the Gulf of California. The friar may have sent Indian messengers to the viceroy so soon as he heard the native reports about the Seven Cities of Cibola, and it is possible that the news of his approaching return may have reached New Spain before the departure of Ulloa, which took place July, 8, 1539, from Acapulco.¹ It seems clear that this action was unexpected, and that

Footnote ¹Ulloa's Relation is translated from Ramusio in Hakluyt, vol. iii, p. 397, ed. 1600.

it was a successful anticipation of preventive measures. In the statement of his grievances, Cortes declares that Mendoza not only threw every possible obstacle in his way, seizing six or seven vessels which failed to get away with Ulloa, but that even after Ulloa had gone, the viceroy sent a strong force up the coast to prevent the ships from entering any of the ports. When stress of weather forced one of the ships to put into Guatulco, the pilot and sailors were imprisoned and the viceroy persistently refused to return the ship to its owner. About the same time, a messenger who had been sent to Cortes from Santiago in Colima was seized and tortured, in the hope of procuring from him information about the plans of Cortes.²

Footnote ²Memorial que dió al Rey el Marques del Valle, en Madrid, 25 de junio, 1540: Printed in Doc. Hist. Espana, vol. iv, p. 209. Compare with this account that in H. H. Bancroft's Mexico, vol. ii, p. 425. Mr Bancroft is always a strong advocate of the cause of Cortes.

"After Friar Marcos came back from the north and filled the people in New Spain with the desire of going to this new country, Cortes realized that he could do nothing, even in the city which he had won for his King and for Europe, to prevent the expedition which Mendoza was already organizing. Early in 1540—we know only that he was on his way when he wrote to Oviedo from Habana³ on February 5—the con-

Footnote ³Oviedo, Historia General, vol. iv, p. 19."

queror of Motecuhzoma's empire left Mexico for the last time, and went to see what he could gain by a personal application at the court of His Majesty the Emperor, Charles V."⁴

Footnote ⁴Ulloa, Eth. Ann. XIV, 369.

Chiefly, perhaps, to prevent Hernando de Soto from hearing of the

success of Friar Marcos, "Mendoza, with all the formality of the viceroyal authority, ordered that no vessel sailing from New Spain should touch at any port in the New World on its way back to the home peninsula, and this notice was duly served on all departing shipmasters by the secretaries of the viceroy."* But, although "Mendoza

Footnote **Ibid.*, page 370.

probably did not know it, De Soto had sailed from Habana in May, 1539, and in July, sending back his largest ships, he began the long march through the everglades of Florida, which was to end in the Mississippi."*

Footnote **Ibid.*

It is probable that Mendoza effected an alliance with Pedro de Alvarado soon after the latter had made preparations for the ~~northwestern~~ ^{he had early — perhaps in consequence} ~~expedition~~ ^{for which} reports brought by Jabeza de Vaca's party in 1536 — [REDACTED] sought and obtained privilege from the king. [REDACTED] Thus the viceroy seems to have eliminated one rival in the case, as he now could and did direct Alvarado's forces to another and more southerly quarter than that which he reserved for the undertaking that he himself was planning, and that he designed to carry out through his own chosen agents. And while Cortes and Guzman were busy at court arguing their respective claims, Mendoza was organizing and outfitting an expedition on a grander scale than that of any other that ever penetrated the broad interior region of North America from New Spain and the southwest; one which in numbers and equipment was only comparable with those of Narvaez and De Soto begun from the southeast, and which far exceeded either of those in the scope of its geographical exploration and discovery.

Of this ^{de} expedition, the viceroy's personal friend, Don Francisco Vasques ^A Coronado, was to be the commanding general.