

"In a little while the sentinel in the tree gave warning that an Indian was near. One of the horsemen, the same Juan Paez who had recently been wounded in the arm, dashed forth with his wonted impetuosity, and rode full speed at the Indian. The latter, as usual, ~~had~~ took refuge under a tree. Paez galloped close by the tree, giving a passing thrust with his lance across the left arm at the Indian. He missed his aim, but his enemy was more successful; for, as the horse ~~had~~ passed, he drew his arrow to the head, and buried it just behind the left stirrup leather. The horse plunged several paces forward and fell dead. Francisco de Bolanos, a comrade and townsmen of Paez, had followed close behind him; he attacked the Indian in the same way, and failed in his blow likewise. His horse ~~received~~ <sup>received</sup> a similar wound, and went stumbling forward to fall beside his predecessor.

"The two dismounted horsemen recovering from their fall, made at the Indian with their lances, while, from the other ~~side~~ side, a cavalier, named Juan de Vega, came galloping towards him on horseback. The Indian, thus assailed on both sides, rushed forth from under the tree to encounter the horseman, perceiving, that if he could kill the horse, he could easily escape from his dismounted antagonists by his superior swiftness of foot.

"With this intent he sped an arrow at the breast of the horse, as he came charging upon him, which would have cloft his heart but for ~~a~~ a breast-plate of three folds of tough bull hide which his rider had provided him. The arrow passed through the breast-plate, and penetrated a hand's breadth in the flesh. The horse continued his career, and Juan de Vega transfixed the savage with his lance.

"The Spaniards grieved over the loss of the two horses, more valuable now that their number was so diminished; but their chagrin was doubly heightened when they came to see the enemy who had cost them so dear. Instead of being well made and muscular, like the natives, he was small, ~~and~~ lank, and diminutive, giving <sup>no</sup> promise in his form of the valour of his spirit. Cursing their misfortune, and the wilfulness of Francisco, which had caused it, they set forward with their companions to re-join the army.\*.....

*Footnote* \*Garcilaso de la Vega, p. 2. lib. 5, c. 5 and 6."

"With similar adventures and disasters did the Spaniards continue their weary journey. Fearful of making ~~too~~ great a bend to the south, and of striking the Mississippi below the province of Guachoya, which was the point where they wished to arrive, they now inclined to the northeast, so as to strike the track they had made on their western

course.

"This led them back through the province of Naguatec,"\*.....

Footnote

"Conquest of Florida; Vol. II, pp. 203-211.

"The towns they had burned in Naguatec, of which they had reported, they found already rebuilt, and the houses full of maize. That country is populous and abundant. Pottery is made there of clay, little differing from that of Estremoz and Montemor."\*

Footnote: \*Marr. Gentlem. of Elvas, in Span. Expl. So. U.S., p. 247.

It ~~is~~ is not probable that the "bend" which the Spaniards "made to the south" in returning from the province of Los Vaqueros, took them much, if any, south of the province of Guasco. The probability is, that, after reaching the vicinity of the latter, they kept on nearly eastward for a number of days, and then turned northeastward, making a circuit that was considerably to the <sup>southeast of the</sup> route by which they had reached Guasco on their westward march. In this southeastern circuit, which brought them from the eastern limit of the Wandering Nations, or Vaqueros province, in 20 days, they must have passed near or through some of the nations that were found by La Salle and Joutel in 1686 and '87, in the San Pedro country of eastern Texas: territory of the "Conis" confederacy. By Joutel's narrative, there seem to have been well established trails, in 1687, both from the Brazos River to the Conis region, and from the latter northeastward to Red River; and it is by no means unlikely that such trails existed in 1541, and were followed to greater or less extent by Moscoso in his return from Los Vaqueros to Naguatec.

On reaching Naguatec, the Spaniards had gotten back to a point of their outgoing route; but they are not represented as having retraced ~~that~~ just that route, from thence to the Mississippi. The provinces of Amayc and Aguacay are not said to have been again visited, and were perhaps left to the north; Chagueto being the next place named as common to the westward march of Moscoso and the eastward. In the province of Chagueto, Moscoso made a second vain attempt to recover Diego de Guzman, the Spanish cavalier who had espoused the daughter of the cacique, deserted the army in its westward march, been adopted and well treated by the girl's father, cast in his lot with the red men, and become the first <sup>white</sup> settler of Arkansas, Anno Domini 1542! ~~and~~ <sup>The Governor wrote to him</sup> sending ink and paper, that he might answer. The purport of the letter stated his determination to leave Florida, reminded him of his being a Christian, and that he was unwilling to leave him among heathen; that he would pardon the error he

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Part of the north-eastern trail, from near Villegas.

had committed in going to the Indians, should he return; and that if they should wish to detain him, to let the Governor know by writing. The Indian who took the letter came back, bringing no other response than the name and rubric of the person written on the back, to signify that he was alive. The Governor sent twelve mounted men after him; but, having his watchers, he so hid himself that he could not be found. For want of maize the Governor could not tarry longer to look for him; and he abandoned him to the strange destiny which he had chosen.

Leaving Chaguato, the army crossed the Arkansas River at Ayays, which it had visited aforntime under De Soto, and which has been identified by Lewis as "the old crossing-place . . . , above Pine Bluff,"

Footnote

\*Op. Expl. so. U.S., page 248.

and thence, following down that river, it reached Chilano, a town not previously discovered; and from thence came to Nilco, or Anilco, where were lands that the Spaniards had regarded as the most fertile of all in that region, where they expected to find ample sustenance, and where, it seems, they had hoped to build vessels for descending the Mississippi. But they found little maize at Anilco, not enough to sustain them while they should ~~be~~ <sup>be building</sup> such vessels; and they were completely nonplussed and chagrined, for the fault was their own, their treatment of the natives of that region, during the army's sojourn at Guachoya in the early part of the year, having been such that, in seed-time, the inhabitants of Anilco had not dared come to their fields to plant. The Anilcos informed the Spaniards of two towns, two days' journey away, in a fertile province called Aminoya, near the Mississippi River. They did not know whether those towns contained maize, <sup>being at war with them;</sup> but they offered to join the Spaniards in an expedition against them. "The Governor sent a captain thither, with horsemen and footmen, and the Indians of Anilco. Arriving at Aminoya, he found two large towns in a level, open field, half a league apart, in sight of each other, where he captured many persons, and found a large quantity of maize." Having taken possession of the place, the captain sent

Footnote

"Narrative by the Gentleman of Elvas, Madrid, 1. c., page 249.

word of his success to Moscoso, who set out with the remainder of the army, in <sup>early</sup> December, marching through flooded bottom-lands in a time of cold rains and northers, and suffering exposures from which ~~most~~ <sup>the most</sup> of the Indians in service, but also, after Aminoya was reached, many died; including not only a number of Spaniards, but nearly all of their native servants.

After Moscoso and the main army arrived, they established themselves

Mark. Gentleman of Elvas  
247-18  
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in the better of the two towns, which was a stockaded one, and situated a quarter of a league from the Mississippi; and they succeeded in collecting there, from the two towns, a quantity of maize which they estimated at "six thousand fascas."

"Better timber for ship-building than had been seen elsewhere in all Florida" was found at Aminoya, where, notwithstanding conspiracies by the natives of surrounding provinces, and a flood from the Mississippi which confined them to the village grounds and to certain other high ~~parts~~ <sup>parts</sup> of the bottom-lands, and in the face of the greatest difficulties in getting and preparing some of the materials needed and in devising substitutes ~~for~~ for others, they finally accomplished the building of seven brigantines, in which, on the 2nd of July, 1543, they left Aminoya.

Descending the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, a remnant of 311 men of De Soto's once great and proud expedition, by sailing westwardly along the gulf shore, finally succeeded in entering the River ~~of~~ Panuco ("Panico"), in the vicinity of the present East-Mexican city of Tampico, on the 10th day of September, 1543; and a few days afterward, having abandoned the ships to the sailors, they arrived by land, in their weird, black-dyed costumes of deer-skin, at the port and town of Panuco, 15 leagues up the river, where "they all went directly to the church, to pray and return thanks for their miraculous preservation," and where they were most hospitably received and entertained by their countrymen.

*Secret* ▶ SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.— Since the above study was written, I have seen, in the recently issued Bulletin 43 of the Bureau of American Ethnology, ~~REMARKS~~ Dr. John R. Swanton's valuable paper on the tribes of the lower Mississippi Valley, and his suggestion (*ibid.*, pp. 257-8) of a possibility that Guachoya ~~may~~ <sup>by La Salle's expedition in 1682</sup> have been identical with Conchayon, one of the ~~Taensa~~ <sup>Mississippi River</sup> villages ~~seen~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> an old channel-lake, ~~now~~ <sup>now</sup> called Lake St. Joseph, near Newellton, La., ~~based~~ <sup>on suggestion</sup> partly upon a certain degree of resemblance between the two names, and partly upon the circumstance that ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the cabin of the Taensa chief, in that year, an old Spanish sword and three old guns.

As the resemblance between the names is not very close, and, such as it is, <sup>readily</sup> may have been a mere coincidence, and as <sup>some</sup> ~~the~~ Spanish relics would very naturally <sup>by the Indians at the time of De Soto's expedition or</sup> have been obtained ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the interval of nearly a century and a half that had passed since then, ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the evidence for locating Guachoya so far south as Newellton, La., seems to have but little weight, as against the evidence in the narrative of the Gentleman of Elvas, that Guachoya was but a short distance below the mouth of the Arkansas River.