

In the Town of Iloilo, on the fourteenth of June, 1800. I, the aforementioned Alcalde Mayor Judge, acting with my accompanying individuals:

In the course of this proceeding, and in consideration of the repeated orders issued by my predecessors, which are evident in this court and dispatched to all the towns within this jurisdiction without any opposition, commanding that all scattered houses, shrines, or huts found in the fields and mountains be relocated to inhabited areas; I must and do hereby order that the shrines or schools erected in the area of Aguiauan without prior permission from this court be demolished. Likewise, any houses or huts in said location or in other distant sites without such permission shall be relocated to inhabited areas.

For its execution, the Governorcillo of the aforementioned town of Miagao is hereby instructed, with the provision that if within nine days from the receipt of this order, the aforementioned shrines and houses are not demolished, a report shall be made to this court, and the strictest punishment shall be imposed.

So ordered, commanded, and signed with my accompanying individuals, as witnessed by me.

Nobales - Carlos de la Cruz - Ricardo Zerrudo.

Note: This order was dispatched in accordance with the previous decree mentioned above. To certify this, I note it immediately, and I attest to its validity. - Nobales.

Governorcillo of the town of Miagao:

By an order issued by me on this date, among other points, it is provided that this present order be dispatched to you so that the shrines, houses, and huts erected in the area of Aguiauan within your territory be demolished and relocated to inhabited areas, except for those with permission from this court. Therefore, I command and instruct you that as soon as you receive this letter, you ensure the destruction and relocation of the aforementioned shrines and houses.

Be aware that if this is not executed within nine days from the date of receipt, you will be punished to the fullest extent of the law. You must report to me upon its execution, and this order must be obeyed.

Iloilo, June 11, 1800. -Nobales.

Coming from my superior, to whom due compliance will be given within the scope of my authority, I hereby sign this on the 15th of June, 1800. - Juan Sanchez.

Governorcillo of the town of Miagao:

On the 11th of last June, I issued an order instructing you that all houses, shrines, schools, and huts erected in the area of Aguiauan without permission from this court are to be demolished and relocated to inhabited areas within nine days from the receipt of said order. You acknowledged your compliance with this order, stating that you would fulfill it. However, as of today's date, you have not informed me of its execution as instructed. Therefore, upon receiving this notice, you are to make your way to this headquarters and appear before me immediately to ensure that no omission occurs in fulfilling this directive.

Iloilo, July 2, 1800. -Nobales

In the town of Iloilo, on the fifth of July, 1800:

Having appeared in this court, the Governorcillo of the town of Miagao, Don Juan Sanchez, with the preceding mandate, I administered to him an oath to speak the truth by God our Lord and the sign of the Holy Cross, under which he pledged to tell the truth. He was made aware that he was being questioned for not obeying the instructions outlined in the mandate, as well as in previous orders sent to him.

Regarding the matter addressed in the said mandate, and informed through one of my sworn interpreters, he stated: when he received the initial order to demolish the schools in the area of Aguiauan, he carried out the demolition. Within three days, upon the instruction of Reverend Father Friar Maximo Gonzales, the said schools were rebuilt in a location closer to the town, named Tanagan. The Reverend Father told the Governorcillo that he had no involvement in the matter and would be responsible for everything.

Furthermore, he added that in the current location of the two schools, there were about twelve huts belonging to four Hariquez, which served solely for the storage of some animals and agricultural tools, and whose owners did not have permission from this Court. He affirmed that all of this was the truth, under the oath he had taken, which he affirmed and ratified. He declared himself to be sixty years old and signed with me, the interpreters, and witnesses, of which I attest. -Nobales – Juan Sanchez – Leon de la Cruz – Carlos de la Cruz – Ricardo Zerrudo.

Mr. Mayor:

We, the principal reformed captains and barangay heads of the town of Miagao, appear before you in the best manner suited to our circumstances. We state that immediately after our Basal Captain, Don Juan Sanchez, received the mandate from Your Reverence in Iloilo on the fourteenth of June of this current year, 1800, he communicated to us the order to demolish all houses existing in the area of Aguiauan.

Considering that such destruction would lead to various inconveniences, damages, and losses to the inhabitants of the said area, we have decided to represent and inform Your Reverence. Some of the principal barangay heads and their sacopers have sugar mills, while others who cannot afford the expenses of this mill have sugar cane crops rented out to those who own them. Others have cocoa orchards, local fruits, honey, cotton, mangoes, nancas, and other vital trees. There are also some herds of cows, carabaos, and horses.

From all these sources, they obtain the means to pay the royal tribute of our Lord the King (may God keep him) and to support their families. These aforementioned items are in the field throughout the year and need constant guarding. The owners of these items cannot guard them alone without having their entire family with them. Therefore, each individual needs a sufficient house for him and his whole family; houses according to the possibility and necessity of each family. Otherwise, thieves would steal everything or most of it, or animals would destroy everything.

In addition, we bring to Your Reverence's attention that in the nearby mountains of the said area of Aguiauan, there are many scattered people and vagabonds who, despite various efforts to register them, pay their tribute, and bring their sons and daughters to school, nothing has been achieved. However, now they see that in the said area of Aguiauan, there are schools where children from neighboring houses can comfortably learn, they are gradually registering. This results in an increase in the Royal Tribute and the spiritual well-being of many souls from tributes, and the education of their children, all of which would be lost in the destruction of the houses, which pose no harm either spiritually or temporally but rather contribute greatly to the welfare. Therefore, we earnestly implore the fairness and justice that Your Reverence administers to revoke the aforementioned mandate, as it directly affects our assets and properties, which we will undoubtedly lose if our houses are demolished. These houses have never offended or harmed anyone.

Furthermore, we wish to inform Your Reverence that before Miagao became a town, there were already houses in Aguiauan, and they have not been demolished up to the present, nor has any mayor dared to order their demolition. Firstly, because it is the best land owned by this town, and secondly, because everyone, including schools, falls under the jurisdiction. We dare not demolish them, as it would inevitably result in the relocation of those residing in said area, leading to the loss of their souls and the Royal Tribute they currently pay to our King. This could also provoke retaliation, causing many to descend with mandates to kill and plunder the town.

Therefore, we respectfully request and implore Your Reverence to proceed and issue orders according to what we have explained. We swear not to proceed with malice, only what is necessary.

Miguel Osorio – Domingo Libuon – Tomas Paguntalan – Juan Beloya – Juan Cipriano – Manuel Servino – Felipe Leonardo – Manuel Paguntalan – Julian de los Santos – Juan de la Cruz – Juan Rameres – Basilio Cabangal – Agustin Soriano - Ignacio de la Cruz – Pedro Tangla – Pedro Gervasio – Alexandro Magno – Juan Evangelista – Martin Soliga – Esteban Gayo – Agustin Ignacio – Juan Bernardo – Alexandro Padulinog – Agustin Barcellano – Agustin Ybro – Agustin Gregorio – Simeon Sugabao – Agustin Pidoy – Francisco Xavier – Juan Estacio – Juan Diego – Francisco Arnesto.

As they have presented themselves: Notify them to present in this court the licenses they have to remain in the area of Aguiauan for approval. Those who do not have such licenses shall appear before me, accompanied by a report from the Governorcillo and principal individuals, as well as a certification from the parish priest confirming the truth of their claims regarding their possessions in the said area and confirming their ownership of formal houses in the town.

Furthermore, the mandate dispatched on the fourteenth of this month is not subject to revocation as requested. It must be complied with in accordance with the Royal Order observed in this court. The Royal Order shall be appended to this provision for its exact and due compliance. I hereby warn the aforementioned presenters that if anyone contravenes said Royal Order, they will face the consequences, in addition to being punished to the fullest extent of the law. So ordered by me, Don Damian Nobales, Mayor of His Majesty and Captain of this province, Minister of the Navy of this Division, acting as the Receiving Judge, with the assistance of my witnesses, due to the absence of a public or Royal scribe, and I sign with them in this post of Iloilo on the 25th of June, 1800, as attested by me.

I, Don Damian Nobales, Captain of the Infantry Regiment of the King guarding the plaza of Manila, Mayor of His Majesty, Captain of this province, Minister of the Navy of this Division, and Commander of the War Department in this island of Panay, acting as the receiving judge, with the assistance of my witnesses, due to the absence of a public or Royal scribe:

Considering that the Reverend Father Cura of the town of Miagao, Don Maximo Gonzales, has just addressed a letter to me, the current Lord Mayor, Don Damian Nobales:

I would appreciate it if the bearer of this letter, who delivered a document from the principal individuals of this town to Your Reverence, bring it (with the provision that Your Reverence deems necessary to sign given the circumstance Your Reverence requested that all signatories be present, as you did not request the same from those of Igaras and San Joaquin when they presented against this town, and even less so when you forwarded said document to the opposing town, where the biased and interested party will put forward the provision in their favor. This is the correct administration of justice). Otherwise, Your Reverence should know that I have six hundred pesos set aside to send to Manila twenty principal individuals with their Captain.

Fray Maximo Gonzales, Miagao, June twenty-sixth, 1800.

And because said missive is wholly derogatory, disrespectful, impolitic, and lacking in due respect for the justice I administer and for my person, I must command and do hereby command an official

communication to be dispatched to the Most Reverend Father Provincial Vicar, Fray Jose Santa Maria, requesting and instructing him to kindly admonish the aforementioned Fray Maximo to refrain from addressing me in such a manner or from interfering in the determinations of this Court, let alone from suggesting disobedience to his parishioners regarding superior orders. Instead, he should encourage them to submit to and respect the authority of justice, for otherwise, further measures will be taken. By this order, I so provide, command, and sign, with my aforementioned witnesses, attesting to its veracity.  
- Damian Nobales – Carlos de la Cruz – Ricardo Zerrudo.

Note: The official communication as prescribed by the order above has been dispatched, for the record: Iloilo, (unreadable), 1800, and I attest to this. - Nobales.

Monseñor Reverendo Padre Fray Jose Santa Maria:

Esteemed sir,

On the 23rd of the current June, Father Maximo Gonzales, the Cura of Miagao, directed a letter to me, the Honorable Mayor Don Damian Nobales, the exact contents of which are as follows:

"Dear Mayor Don Damian Nobales,

I would appreciate it if the bearer of this letter, who delivered a document from the principal individuals of this town to Your Honor, bring it with whatever decision Your Honor sees fit (without the necessity of the circumstance Your Honor requests; namely, that all signatories be present, as you did not request this from those of Igaras and San Joaquin when they presented against this Town, and much less so when you forwarded said document to the opposing town, where the biased and interested party will put forward the provision in their favor, for the sake of just administration of justice). Otherwise, Your Honor should know that I have six hundred pesos set aside to send to Manila, twenty principal individuals with their captain. Fray Maximo Gonzales, Miagao, June twenty-sixth, 1800."

In a decree I provided, among other points, I instructed that this be dispatched to Your Reverence, along with an insertion of the copy of said letter, entrusting and requesting Your Reverence to kindly admonish Fray Maximo Gonzales to refrain from sending me such audacious, impolitic, inattentive, and disrespectful letters to the justice I administer and to my person. Moreover, he should refrain from intervening in the determinations of this court or influencing them. He should also refrain from suggesting disobedience to his parishioners regarding superior orders. Instead, he should urge submission and respect for justice, for otherwise, I will be compelled (albeit against my will) to employ the faculties granted to me by virtue of my position. Should Your Reverence act accordingly, I will be obliged to correspond to any matters of such nature that may arise in this court.

May God grant Your Reverence many years. Iloilo, July 2nd, 1800. May Our Lord bless Your Reverence. Your faithful servant, Damian Nobales."

Pass this on to Father Maximo Gonzales, the priest of Miagao, who will address the charges contained therein. Tigbauan, July 2nd, 1800.

Father Jose Santa Maria, Provincial Vicar.

In compliance with the order above from my superior, I must say, and I say: I have always refrained from writing to the Honorable Mayor on such matters, despite being greatly offended by seeing that he has oppressed and tormented the people of my town without reason or justice. However, at present, and as long as I see that the Honorable Mayor treats the people of this town with the fairness and justice they deserve, I will refrain, remain silent, and overlook. But if otherwise, I will not restrain myself; I will speak, write, and shout until my just complaints reach Manila, to the eyes and ears of the most pure Superior Judges, who, being so just and full of wisdom, will discern between the good and bad in my letters. As for addressing the charges made by the Honorable Mayor, I believe the response I sent to him yesterday, dated the second of the current month, is sufficient, and I sign it.

Father Maximo Gonzales, Priest of Miagao.

Governadorcillo of the town of Miagao: For the course of the proceedings outlined in the order provided by me in the letter from the leaders and barangay heads of that town, it is necessary for all the presenters to appear before me in this Court; therefore, I instruct you that as soon as you receive this, notify the aforementioned signatories to appear in this Court; in compliance with this, there shall be no omission. Iloilo, July 2nd, 1800. - Nobales.

I, the Gobernadorcillo of the town of Miagao, received this order from my Lord Mayor. As soon as I became aware of it, I called upon the leaders and barangay heads of this town who signed the document, but they are not in the town as they are in their fields planting rice and corn. Truthfully signed on July 3rd, 1800. -Juan Sanchez.

"Mr. Mayor Don Damián Nobales: Very dear sir:"

(Repeats the letter from R.F Friar Maximo Gonzales)

Response: Monsignor Reverend Father Fray Maximo Gonzales: Very dear sir: I am sorry not to understand what Your Reverence asks of me in yours; if it is concerning matters entrusted to you, they have not yet arrived. Farewell to Your Reverence and command your secure servant, Damian Nobales.

Mr. Mayor Don Damian Nobales: My dear sir:

I received yours dated June 28, in which you say: "I am sorry not to understand what you tell me in yours; from this proposition it is inferred that you ask for an interpretation, which I will give in accordance with the one addressed to me on the 26th of said month: In the first proposition of mine mentioned, I meant to say that the barangay head who delivered a document signed by the principals of

this town to Your Reverence should have returned it to you with the provision that best suited justice, and by not doing so (as Your Reverence did not), he departed from the style of all tribunals, and let Your Reverence know that the judge who fails in this makes the litigation his own; and in this action alone he remains arrested and condemned by law to the costs, damages, and prejudices that the litigation may entail; in the second proposition of mine, I meant to say that Your Reverence had no need to call the signers (and now I add for greater understanding) that they are not obliged to obey you on this point for several reasons: The first being that it is a time to work in their fields, and if they lose time with trips to Iloilo, they limit themselves to being able to pay their tribute and support their families; the second, because all the signers are former captains and other barangay heads who must take care of their town, either in a fire that may occur or in an invitation from enemies, who being so far from this town in Iloilo, will not be able to remedy it; the third, because the signers are ignorant Indians, not very skilled, who do not even know how to speak or understand the Spanish language, which is why it can be feared that they may easily fall into any error in their decision; (there is no fourth) The fifth: because on occasions when those from Igaras and those from San Joaquin have presented themselves against this town, those signers have not been called in their presentations, and we would like you to tell us, Your Reverence, what privilege those have that these cannot enjoy? The Fifth (again), which is the most conclusive and worthy of note: because all know, and I too, that as soon as Your Reverence received the presentation from those of this town, you immediately sent it with a soldier to the opposite town so that the interested party could put forward the provision that seemed most in their favor, whose fact not only indicates malice and passion against, but clearly manifests twisting justice in favor of whom Your Reverence wants, and not of who has it; the proof is evident, and it is confirmed in that having asked Your Reverence the aforementioned head in sheets of paper of a fourth seal "with a real in hand," Your Reverence denied it by saying that said paper was worth one real per sheet, and giving Your Reverence the same the next day eight reales for a sheet, or as many as Your Reverence wanted, Your Reverence replied that there were none, when it is true that Your Reverence has them for the towns opposite to this; for these and other reasons, which I now withhold; the signers in the aforementioned presentation are exempt from a law of right to appear before Your Reverence. This said law, and others more on the case, I could cite to Your Reverence, but I omit it, to see that my opponent does the same, insinuating only by right, by law whose citation of laws, and rules of law (it seems to me) omits without prudence, only not to bother Your Reverence's attention by considering it a lay judge, which, if not, I believe, Your Reverence would cite all the laws that he insinuates in his writing. In the same way that I (if necessary) offer to cite all the laws and rules of law that prohibit Your Reverence from compelling the Indian signers in their presentation (which Your Reverence retains without providing it and to appear before Your Reverence, but the only hint that I have had in withholding said laws, considering that if Your Reverence continues without attending in justice to those of this town due to the well-known passion and inclination that Your Reverence shows to the opponents, it will be necessary for them to resort to a superior court, where there are judges well versed in laws, without the need for citations, and what has been said is enough for the exposition and interpretation of mine that (it seems) Your Majesty requests in mine, and I sign. Fray Maximo Gonzalez, priest of Miagao.

Postscript: When I was about to close this, a mandate from Your Reverence arrived, instructing the Captain to appear in Iloilo, for not having obeyed the mandate of Your Reverence, which ordered him

to demolish the houses and schools of Aguiauan. To this I say, if Your Reverence had provided in writing after the document submitted by the principals of this town during this interval, and after such provision he had not obeyed, then he would be at fault, which he does not have now. Besides, considering that the houses and schools are under the jurisdiction of the church, as Your Reverence is informed in the document, it is not the captain's responsibility to carry out such an attack, nor is it Your Reverence's to order it. Let us speak frankly, Mr. Mayor, so that you may understand me. Please refrain from meddling in matters that do not concern you and allow me to fulfill my obligation freely, which is not only to establish two schools but also all those that I deem necessary for the proper education of my parishioners. I warn Your Reverence that due to the injustices you are committing against this town by favoring those of San Joaquin and Igaras, you have stirred up the town, and instead of ensuring that the vagabonds scattered in these mountains are gathered to be enumerated, I fear that because of them many enumerated individuals will flee, resulting in serious harm to God and the King. Above all, if Your Reverence insists on demolishing these houses and my schools, you may come with your troops to demolish them, but under no circumstances will I allow the captain to do so, as you understand that it is not the captain's fault for not demolishing them, but rather my prudence in preventing it. Fray Maximo Gonzales, Priest of Miagao, July 2, 1800.

Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated the 2nd of this month, which you mentioned as you wished it to be. Iloilo, July 5, 1800.

Mr. Mayor Don Damián Nobales,

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is the document that the indigenous people of this town presented to you, who are farming land in the territory of San Joaquín and which you returned without wanting to take any action, simply instructing them verbally to take it back to the signatories. As I mentioned in my previous communication, the signatories are not obliged and cannot present themselves under the current circumstances, for the five reasons stated in that document. Additionally, I now add that, after informing the signatories of your order to present themselves in Iloilo, they replied that they would rather take refuge in the mountains than appear before you in your court. Therefore, there is a clear risk of losing those souls and the tribute they have always paid to Our Lord the King. I hope that now you will see fit to take the action that best suits justice.

I want to inform you that the commissioner of San Joaquín and his officers continue to make raids in search of the local people, like hunters pursuing deer. In my parish, all I can see is dust due to the numerous unfortunate women who arrive with their cloaks laden with threads, which breaks my heart to see so much misery. I hear the most heartbreaking complaints, such as those from whom the commissioner has not allowed to sow their fields with palay, or those who, having planted corn in their absence, are now unable to approach to harvest it. The cruelty of this enmity is unbearable.

Honestly, I don't know what to do. I feel compelled to appeal to the Father Christ of the Republic to look upon these people with pity and justice. If you are not willing to listen to them or attend to them, I

myself will implore the Father Christ of Mercy in the holy sacrifice of the mass. I will beseech Him to, in the same way you deny them the ability to pay their tribute and support their families, strip you of all your possessions and plunge you and your children into the most unfortunate state of misery. That at the moment of death, this be the burden that God presents to you with all severity, and that you find no protector or advocate. I am confident that God will hear my humble prayers, as they lean in favor of these unfortunate souls abandoned by justice, whose complaints reach to heaven.

Fray Máximo González, Priest of Miagao, July 8, 1800.

M.R.F. Friar Maximo Gonzales. Dear Sir,

I received your letter dated the 8th of this month, and I see that it is all forged in a blacksmith's shop because the smith struck the blows so crookedly that instead of hitting the anvil, he hit the forge.

As usual, I return the document as it came, since the presenters did not come to bring it, and they know the provision. Open, order, and sign it.

Damian Gonzales, Captain of the Royal Armies and Mayor. Iloilo, July 9, 1800.

Monsignor Reverend Father Provincial Vicar,

Don Damian Nobales, Captain of the infantry regiment of the king, who garrisons the plaza of Manila, and mayor by His Majesty of this province of Iloilo, I present myself before your reverence in all form and say: that justice must be served by your reverence to ensure that the Reverend Father Priest of the town of Miagao, Fray Maximo Gonzales, appears before your reverence and declares according to the law the following points:

If it is true that the document presented to me by the leaders of his town, immediately upon receiving it, I dispatched it to the opposing town with a soldier so that their provision be made, and on which day it was; to explain who the opponent is, and who was the bearer or conductor of said document; also to declare who is the headman who bought stamped paper from me, and I denied it to him, telling him that one sheet was worth a real, and he should give me eight reales for a sheet, and I replied that there was no stamped paper, and when I sold this merchandise to the towns that the said father priest calls opponents: if he knows that in my court there is paper of the current stamps, and how these are sold: all of which declared by the aforementioned Father Priest Maximo, I request your reverence to return it to me for the rights that suit me: and to achieve this, I ask your reverence to provide and command as it is just, I swear not to proceed maliciously and what is necessary.

Damian Nobales

Pass this presentation from the Honorable Mayor to the Reverend Father Priest of Miagao, Fray Maximo Gonzales, who, in case of having uttered verbally or in writing (since I am not aware), what is assumed, will respond as requested, following this.

Friar Jose Santa Maria, Provincial Vicar.

In compliance with the provisions and orders of my superior, I must respond to the interrogation posed by the Honorable Mayor preceding this. I state and affirm the following:

To the first question, whether it is true that upon receiving the document presented by the leaders of his town, I dispatched it to the opposing town with a soldier to execute its provision, and on which day it was done. I respond that I do not assert this knowledge with certainty, but rather presume it, as on the same day and hour that Your Honor received the presentation from these individuals, you dispatched to Igaras, and the same Indians who accompanied the soldier to Molo asked the soldier where he was going, to which he replied that he was going to Igaras with dispatches from Your Honor. This action leads to the presumption that Your Honor was sending the same document, and for what purpose would this gathering be? If not for the aforementioned.

To the question of which day it was, I respond that Your Honor would know that, as my calendar is only for my own governance and does not dictate Your Honor's actions.

Regarding the request to explain who the opposing party is and who was the bearer or conductor of said document, I answer that it was a soldier sent by Your Honor. Whatever his name may be, Your Honor would know, as he is your subordinate, but the fact is certain.

Regarding the inquiry about who the headman was who bought stamped paper and was denied, being told by me that it was worth a real per sheet, and to give me eight reales for a sheet, and I replied that there was no stamped paper, I answer that as long as the Honorable Mayor (who is the presenter) solemnly affirms with his own hand and pen that the said headman will not be subjected to any harassment by virtue of this title alone, then he may disclose who he is. Otherwise, I do not consider it appropriate, as it seems to me, with very grave reasons (which I will explain in due course), that this unfortunate individual will be annihilated by the Honorable Mayor himself, for if others have been unjustly treated, what can be presumed of this case? Therefore, the said headman, demonstrating one real to buy two sheets of paper, as it is worth one real per sheet, and when I refused to receive the one real because I was ordered to bring two, he returned the real to the person who had entrusted it. What the Honorable Mayor states in his presentation, that the Indian brought a peso for one sheet, and I told him there was no stamped paper, is a true statement, but the Honorable Mayor omits in his presentation the following clause: that the Indian not only presented one peso for one sheet but also offered to pay for as many as Your Honor desired, and it is true that I told Your Honor that there was no stamped paper, and the proof is that even though it existed, Your Honor did not provide it. As for the query from the presenter about when I sold this merchandise to the towns that the said priest calls adversaries, I reply that although I do not recall the exact time, I know that Your Honor has provided it to the towns of Igaras and San Joaquin, which are the ones referred to as adversaries, as they have presented themselves against my town, and they could not have done so formally if Your Honor had not provided them with stamped paper, as no one else sells it in this province but Your Honor.

Regarding whether I know if there is stamped paper in my court, I say that I am certain that Your Honor has both fourth and third class stamped paper, as I have seen it in documents that Your Honor has provided.

To the question of how much it is sold for, I reply that it is valued as it is worth, and as Your Honor sells it; that is, the fourth-class stamped paper (for Indians) is sold for half a real per sheet, and the third-class stamped paper (for Spaniards) is sold for two reales per sheet. I know that Your Honor wanted to sell it to the people of this town for one real per sheet of fourth-class stamped paper, and that indeed Your Honor sold the third-class stamped paper to the people of this town for four reales per sheet, as on the 17th of this present month and year, you gave them half a sheet for two reales, thus, this answers the entire interrogation of the Honorable Mayor, and I sign it in Miagao, July 20, 1800.

Return this presentation to the Honorable Mayor, Don Damian Nobales, for the uses that pertain to his right. Tigbauan, July 21, 1800. Fray Joseph Santa Maria, Provincial Vicar.

This is a faithful copy of the original to which I refer. Iloilo, July 22, 1800.