

[New Orleans] 1st of February [1851]

[To: Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

Last night Dr. Sanders<sup>1</sup> (your guarantor) was here to see me, who manifested to be very surprised and distressed by your departure without his consent. He told me he would have to deliver today two thousand dollars because that is what the sheriff said yesterday, when not finding you, he went to look for him. To me this must be exaggerated; first because Sanders is not your guarantor to keep you in this city, but so that you appear in due time to be tried and 2nd because having I told Sigur<sup>2</sup> when he came to tea, he told me that you had departed well and that Sanders should not worry about it. Anyway it is I am afraid that Dr., from what I have seen, is scared of anything, will send you when you least expect it a telegraphic despatch so that you return immediately, which despatch you should disregard, because I will be careful of telling you in particular to come or stay there in your labors which is convenient to all.

I have just received the letters from the Ysabel; not one word about money in any except in the one of M.,<sup>3</sup> who tells me that on the next steamer he will send me some news which could be very good if he was sure that all of his offers were accomplished, that the result will tell. He also tells me that finally the Cuban<sup>4</sup> found a way of sending his pal in N.Y. the jewels and the duplicate of the 3,000 dollars from Camagüey, knowing from the last letters that he had not yet received the principal. We thus have an explanation for the trip of Najasa,<sup>5</sup> as I had sustained here with the doubts that you will remember.

According to the other letters, I am going to tell you the curious and magnificent summary that I derive from two of the men, that we have there ready for the independence campaign, armed and committed, under the orders of different leaders and officials.

In Havana and its suburbs including Regla and Guanabacoa	5,800
In the immediate area to a distance of five leagues	2,550
In Vuelta de Abajo	3,000
In Matanzas all cavalry	800
From P[uerto] P[rincipe] to Cienfuegos	<u>1,650</u>
	13,800

I'm not aware of anything from [Puerto] Principe to [Santiago de] Cuba so that I could add to the previous summary for not having received one letter from those parts; but you already know the previous news that I have of the brilliant state of opinion in that land; if we also take into account the always increasing favorable disposition of the garrison, we should not doubt what the *Yankee*<sup>6</sup> tells me in his letter "My general, believe me, if you are able to give a blow upon your arrival, your

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<sup>1</sup> New Orleans Physician A. L. Saunders.

<sup>2</sup> Attorney Laurent J. Sigur, editor of the New Orleans *Delta*. Narciso Lopez was living in his home.

<sup>3</sup> Venezuelan Consul in Havana Manuel Muñoz Castro, alias Catuche, the nephew of Narciso Lopez.

<sup>4</sup> Manuel Rodríguez Mena.

<sup>5</sup> Pseudonym of Gaspar Betancourt Cisneros, editor of *La Verdad* in New York City.

<sup>6</sup> John Sidney Thrasher, American living in Havana, editor of *El Faro Industrial*.

march toward this city will be in triumph."

Do not jump or get rattled with joy, work toward realizing the triumphant march, and write relentlessly from afar although it is burdensome everything characteristic of the motherland Cuba

N[arciso] L[opez]

M. says that the small pictures are plenty and that they run from hand to hand with enthusiasm and daring.

[Envelope postmarked] New Orleans, La., Feb 1

John Lama Esq.<sup>7</sup>

Savannah

For D. German [pseudonym of Ambrosio Jose Gonzales]

*The men are ready*

Translated and annotated by Antonio Rafael de la Cova.

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<sup>7</sup> John Lama was a French merchant who migrated to Savannah in 1843.

1<sup>o</sup> de febrero.

Ayerche estubo a verme el D.<sup>o</sup> Sanders (el piador de V.) y se manifestó muy sorprendido y afligido p.<sup>a</sup> la marcha de V. sin su consentimiento. Me dijo que tendria q.<sup>e</sup> entregar hoy dos mil pesos p.<sup>a</sup> que así lo habia dicho ayer el Chief, cuando no habiendolo consultado a V. p.<sup>a</sup> dar una etc. Para mi esto debia ser exagerado, p.<sup>a</sup> q.<sup>e</sup> Sanders no es piador de V. p.<sup>a</sup> que se plantenga V. en esta ciudad, sino p.<sup>a</sup> q.<sup>e</sup> comparezca a su tiempo a ser juzgado y 2.<sup>o</sup> por q.<sup>e</sup> habiendolo dicho yo a si por cuando vino al te, me dijo q.<sup>e</sup> V. se habia marchado bien y q.<sup>e</sup> no debia tener cuidado Sanders p.<sup>a</sup> ello. De cualquier manera q.<sup>e</sup> sea temo q.<sup>e</sup> en D.<sup>o</sup>, q.<sup>e</sup> p.<sup>a</sup> lo que he visto, se asusta de cualquier cosa, le ponga a V. cuando menos se piense un parte telegrafico p.<sup>a</sup> q.<sup>e</sup> se vuelva volando, del cual parte V. no debe hacer caso alguno, p.<sup>a</sup> yo tendre cuidado de darle sobre en particular de venir o seguir hay en sus trabajos lo conveniente a todo.

Acabo de recibir las cartas del Zabel: ni una palabra sobre dinero en ninguna otra q.<sup>e</sup> en la de te, el cual me dice q.<sup>e</sup> p.<sup>a</sup> el proximo vapor me enviara alguna letra que podria ser muy buena si estuviese seguro q.<sup>e</sup> cumplieren todos sus ofertas, que el resultado lo dira. Tambien me dice q.<sup>e</sup> p.<sup>a</sup> fin el cubano encontró modo de enviar a su comp.<sup>a</sup> a N. Y. las prendas y el duplicado de los 3000 p.<sup>a</sup> del camaguey, sabiendo p.<sup>a</sup> las ultimas cartas que aquel aun no habia recibido el principal. La tenemos pues explicado el viaje de Najara, segun yo habia sostenido aqui cuando las dudas de que se acordara V.

Segun las demas cartas, voy a ponerle a V. el resumen curioso y magnifico que sacó de las de los hombres, que tenemos alla ya dispuestos a la

campaña de la independencia, armados y comprometidos, bajo las ordenes de diferentes cabecillas y oficiales.

En la Habana y sus arrabales incluso Regla y Guanabacoa . . . . . 5.800.

En sus inmediaciones a unas leguas de distancia . . . . . 2.550.

En vuelta de abajo . . . . . 3000.

En Matanzas todo del caballo . . . . . 800.

En el interior de P. P. a los fugados . . . . . 650.

Nada se del Príncipe a Cuba de modo que pueda agregar p. anterior  
resum. en p. no haber recibido ni una carta de hacia pa. parte; pero  
ya V. sabe las noticias anteriores que pones del brillante estado de la  
opinión p. aquella tierra: si ademas tenemos en cuenta la disposi-  
cion favorable, siempre en aumento de la guarnición, deberiamos  
no dudar lo q. el Sankee me dice en su carta "Al general, oreamo,  
si V. consigue dar un golpe a su llegada, su march. a a esta ciudad sera  
en triunfo"

No bringue ni se me aturulle de contento, trabaje p.  
realizar la triunfal marcha, y escríva sin cansarse y alejando  
siquiera mucho de cuente todo lo característico de la madre  
Cuba

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Dice Ab. que los retratos chicos son excelentes y q. corren de mano en mano con  
entusiasmo y adivinientos

*Ben. D. Johnson*

Don't hombre listo (Gal. L. L.)

*John Lama Esq.*

*Savannah*

