

N. Orleans, 2 of July of 1851

Dear D. G.¹ I reply to your letter of the 23 last No. 1 that I have just received. In it and by what Villaverde² had read me of another one that he also received from you, I see that you have given too much importance to the madness and chicanery of J. M. Hz.³ and the fools who sustain, that is who believe they are upholders of his fantastic flag: they are only six or seven that they themselves have done us the favor of declaring themselves hindrances and leaving us more expeditious. The tricksters and the fools have always been a great remora in all types of enterprises, and remora by its nature very laborious to eliminate. Although they have tried to give themselves importance by vociferating that they are in agreement and correspondence with you and other distinguished Cubans, I was careful to let our compatriots and friends here know, exactly the same as you, giving way to your indignation, as you now say in your letters; in the end I have looked at this matter in such a way, that I thought that I should not say a word about it to any one.

As I considered you already out of alembics and refineries, and like I, strong and healthy, to undertake the campaign again, is why I told you, and repeated for you to start on your way here. Upon giving you such an order, Hernandez and his madness were to me in another world, I was only motivated by the interest of the Cuban cause, believing, I repeat; that there would not be the great physical impediment that exists,⁴ after so many days of calm and even of immobility and that you would begin your march immediately, I gave the orders there that I believed opportune. Leaving these aside, dedicate yourself to reestablishing your health using the time so that you can take part in the fight that will occur, at least departing with the second push, if that does not happen, you can be sure I will have the same sentiment as that caused by the impossibility found by the other Z. of following me now. To the baths⁵ then, Mr. D.G., and without thinking in anything else until you receive my next letter in which I will manifest what I will want you to do from there.

When I left you I told you of my resolution that absolutely no one would have further intervention in the labors that I would again renew to carry out the enterprise, than those which I would directly give to carry out my definite orders, I am surprised then by what you say that you wrote to O'S.⁶ You tell him "that if he had not received orders from me of remitting to me what was left after the sale of the steamer, to send it to you to help me with a force in those States,⁷ according to your agreement with me before we departed." My friend, there has not been such an agreement nor have I ever thought about that because before that there are other things of greater interest, but

¹ Don German was the codename for Ambrosio Jose Gonzales.

² Cirilo Villaverde.

³ Jose Manuel Hernandez, former Cuban Junta member, who landed with the Lopez expedition in Cardenas, Cuba, on 19 May 1850.

⁴ Ambrosio Jose Gonzales was laid up in coastal Georgia after contracting malaria.

⁵ Gonzales went to the baths at White Sulphur Springs, W.V.

⁶ John Louis O'Sullivan.

⁷ Georgia and Florida.

even when there had been, are you not aware that with such orders, without my knowledge in our actual circumstances of particular disorganization, it would suffice to start an uproar of unconvincing and of false postures that the devil himself would be unable to fix afterward. Such error has had no small part in the recent failure and nothing more wise than to accept the experience, if it does not fit the axiom that he who leads should create everything to be able to communicate. I therefore recommend to you, with anticipation, that you absolutely unite to carry out that which I will entrust you, as I have already said, because I cannot rely on your services to depart with me due to the bad state of your health. I know that you will say that I am one who sets precepts as you have told me on another occasion; but that does not matter to me; I am an old soldier accustomed to command, I sincerely like you, and as I know your beautiful qualities of the heart and of the head I infinitely lament more a certain small defect that I have spoken to you about many times and which you still do not want to correct, so I will continue with my preceptorial subject with you by which I will give you a clear proof of my friendship and of my affection, and in consequence I will conclude this paragraph recommending that you never forget that he who aspires to command well, it is precise that he start learning to strictly obey without allowing for interpretations.

If you have kept copy of the letter I am answering and look with consideration at the two concluding paragraphs, I believe that you will answer them yourself recognizing in one the total lack of all good principle in circumstances such as ours, and in the other, an unjust unfounded apprehension that denaturalizes my character and does you little favor. My friend, I have in you all the confidence that would inspire anyone who knows you as I do, your unblemished honor, and in regards to me, I believe that no one with good sense will be able to consider me, not even disposed to the miserable vice that you believe to have found in me.

I conclude by saying that I need that the brother have the men ready as I have ordered him, in the manner which I have told him, and that Titus⁸ do the same with those he is with; that which [...] will be also [*torn*] in a reserved place and easy to take without great loss of time and that the rest of the effects, armament and munitions, be also ready in the same place to be also embarked as they should go with us and return to Savannah where the steamer will return to conduct the second departure. Especially without losing an hour's time you should find me and send here in the same manner, a trustworthy pilot who will conduct me with the steamer to the place where I should find everything prepared to fill my object, which place you will tell me with every possible detail, also, in the letter that the same pilot will bring me. No more or less than this, and I assure you that everything will come out just right. Forget for a moment, if you can, your ailments or make the brother act so that everything will be done as I have said and as quickly as possible and later heal yourself with great care so that you can go to support your friend from the heart

N[arciso] L[opez]

Villaverde will go there real soon with my complete instructions, I only hope to know that I can count on 4,000 dollars that I still need.

Translated and annotated by Antonio Rafael de la Cova.

⁸ Henry Theodore Titus.

N. Orleans 2 de Julio de 1851.

Querido D. S. contesto su carta del 20 último n.º 1.º q.º acabo de recibir. Por ella y p.º lo q.º me habia leído Villaverde de otra q.º recibí tambien de U., veo que U. le ha dado demasiada importancia a las leucras y a las malladas de D. J. H. y los tontos q.º sostienen, o sea que se creen sus temedores de su fantástica bandera: solo son sus o sea que ellos mismos nos han hecho el favor de declararse estorbos y de dejarnos mas espeditos. Los manlas y los tontos siempre han sido una gran remora en toda especie de empresas, y remora p.º su naturaleza muy trabajosa de eliminar. Aunque han querido darse importancia vociferando estar de acuerdo y en correspond. con U. y otros cubanos distinguidos, yo tube el cuidado de hacer conocer a nuestros compatriotas y amigos de aqui, exactamente lo mismo que U., dando rienda a su indignacion, dice ahora en sus cartas; en fin yo he mirado este negocio de tal modo, que cree no debia decir a nadie una palabra sobre él.

Como lo consideraba a U. ya fuera de abambigues y refinarias, y como yo, fuerte y sano p.º emprender de nuevo la campaña, es que le dije y repetí que se pasara en carísimo p.º sea. Al darle tal orden, Hernandez y sus leucras estaban en el otro mundo p.º me, solo me movia el interes de la causa de Cuba, creyendo, repetí, que no habria el gran impedim. físico que existe, despues de tantos dias de sueño y aun de inmovilidad y que U. efectuaría su marcha en seguida, di' las ordenes alla que cree oportunas. Deseando pues correr estas, dedíquese U. a restablecer su salud aprovechando el tiempo p.º que

pueda tomar parte en la guerra que se va a armar, siquiera marchando en el segundo convite; si tal cosa no puede, este V. seguro que tendre un sentimiento igual al que me feuse la imposibilidad en que esta la otra V. de seguirme a los B. A los banos pues, D. S., y sin pensar en mas nada haré que reciba V. mi propia carta en que le manifestaré cuanto que yo que V. haga de

Cuando me separé de V. le comuniqué mi resolución de que nada absolutamente tuviese mas interese que en los trabajos q. emprenderia de nuevo p. llevar adelante la empresa, que la que directamente le diere yo en desempeño de mis comitantes encargos, me sorprende pues lo que me dice V. que le escribio a O. S. - Le dice V. " que si no habia recibido ordenes mas de remitirme lo q. le quedase despues de la venta del vapor, que se lo facilitaran a V. p. ayudarme con una fuerza de esos Estados, segun convenio con miyo antes de separarnos". Amigo mio, ni ha habido tal convenio ni yo he pensado en eso jamas pues q. antes son otras cosas de mayor interese, pero aun cuando lo hubiera habido; No conoce V. que con pedidos así, sin mi consentimiento en nuestras actuales circunstancias de desorganizacion particularmente, bastaria p. armar una algarabía de inconvenientes y de falsas posiciones que el diablo mismo no podria corregirlo de nuevo. No poca parte ha tenido en esto el mismo fracaso y nada a que se sabe que aceptar la oferta, ya que no sobre el axioma de que el que dirige debe establecerlo. Toda p. poder entender de reconcomiendo a V. pues, con anticipacion, que se usara absolutamente a ejecutar aquello que yo le encargare, como ya he dicho, puesto que p. marchar conmigo no puedo contar con sus servicios p. el mal estado de mi salud. Si que V. dira q. soy proceptista &c. como ya me lo ha dicho en otra ocasion; pero no me importa eso nada; yo soy un viejo soldado acostumbrado al mando, yo

le quiero á V. sinceramente, y como conozco sus bellas cualidades del cora-
zon y de la cabeza tanto infinitamente. mas cierto defectillo de q.^o le
he ablado muchas veces y del que aun no se quiere V. corregir, asi es
que seguire con mi parte de preceptista p.^a con V. en lo que le da
una prueba clara de mi amistad y de mi cariño, y en consue-
cia concluiré este parrafo encargandole que no olvide nunca que el
que aspira á mandar á otros, es preciso que aprenda á obedecer
á obedecer estricatamente y sin permitirse interpretaciones.

Si V. ha dejado copia de la carta que contesto y fija su con-
sideracion en los dos parafos con q.^o concluyo, creo que V. mismo se
los contestará recordando en uno la falta absoluta de todo buen
principio en circunstancias como las nuestras, y en el otro, una
injusta cabilosidad que desnaturaliza mi carácter y le hace á
V. poco favor. Aunque mio, yo tengo en V. toda la confianza q.^o
inspiraría á cualquiera que lo conozca como yo, su honor
acrisolado, y p.^a lo que hace á mi, creo que con buenos fun-
damentos nadie podrá considerarme, ni siquiera dispuesto
al miserable vicio que V. cree descubrir en mí.

Concluyo esta diciendole que necesito que el hermano tenga
dispuestos los hombres que le he encargado, de la manera que
le he dicho, y que usted haga lo mismo con todos los que se
da: que lo que puede reunir en vapor este tambien me
gar movido y facil de tomarlo sin gran pérdida de tiempo
que el resto de efectos, armamentos y municiones, estan tambien
prontas en el mismo lugar p.^a ser embarcadas igualmente
pues deben ir con nosotros y volver á Savannah donde re-
tornará el vapor p.^a conducir la segunda partida). Sobre todo
que sin perder una hora de tiempo me consiga V. y haga ve-
nir aqui del mismo modo, un practico de confianza que me

conduzca con el vapor al lugar donde debo encontrar todo lo
preparado p.^a llenar mi objeto, cuyo lugar con sus pelos
y señales me lo dirá U., además, en la carta que me traiga
el mismo práctico. Ni mas ni menos que esto, y yo le
aseguro á U. que todo saldrá á pedir de boca. Olvide U. p.^a
en momentos, si puede, sus padecimientos, o haga bailar al
ferrocarril p.^a q. de todo se haga como he dicho, y con la vel-
ocidad posible y luego avise U. con un mensajero p.^a que vaya
á apoyar á su amigo de corazón.

Villavieja saldrá p.^a allá

U. en pronto con completas
instrucciones mías, espero solo
saber q. puede contar con
4000 p.^a q. años me faltan.