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October 23, 1933

Mr. Herral Ayres
Spanish History Research Library
St. Mary's Academy Building
112 College Street
San Antonio, Texas

My dear Mr. Ayres:

I am glad to get your reaction regarding the first meeting of the Yanaguana Society, and I carried away with me some impressions that are quite in accord with your own. I am afraid that our friend Chabot has organized a mutual admiration association rather than a group of historical scholars competent to ferret out facts according to the best canons of criticism.

Now that the appointments to office have been made, what have they to offer as credentials so that the society may function with that precision and expediency that are the qualifications of an efficient body of executives?

In the first place, the presidency has been given to a person who did not grace this important occasion by his presence. What has he contributed to the field of historical scholarship and research to recommend him as leader in so great an undertaking?

Again, if this organization expects to achieve results, an annual meeting does not give sufficient attention and time for the purposes specified in its foundation. The individual responsibility of members to collect documents and memoirs is not clearly defined. My own experience, as well as that of other members of the Commission, shows that there is a disposition not to part with these papers that have passed from generation to generation as heirlooms. Hence, I have not used much persuasion to get the originals, but I generally attempt to secure them as a loan for a limited time so that the pages may be reproduced by photostat, and even then I am not always successful in my approach.