

Kingdom of the Texas.' This populous realm, which was fifteen days eastward from La Junta, was ruled by a powerful king. As for the man who had visited Castillo in 1650, he was not king, 'but only the king's lieutenant.' The Texas were a settled people, raised crops in abundance, and were neighbors of La Gran Quivira, so close, indeed, that they visited back and forth almost daily. From what he had heard, they would gladly welcome settlers and missionaries, for ever since Castillo's day they had been wishing for and expecting them. Even now two messengers from the Texas were waiting at La Junta for a reply to their request sent through Sabatea."

21 "Governor Cruzate was enthusiastic at the prospect of a new field for exploration, and forwarded Sabatea's declaration to the viceroy with a letter in which he stated that he would consider it a great triumph if 'another New World' and 'two Realms with two more Crowns' should be added to the kingdom. In answer to Sabatea's request, Father Lopez went to La Junta, as we have already seen. Shortly afterward he was followed by Maestre de Campo Juan Dominguez de Mendoza and a small band of soldiers, destined to 'the Discovery of the Orient and the Kingdom of the Texas.' On January 1, 1684, the party, accompanied by Father Lopez, and leaving Father Acevedo to minister to the Indians at La Junta, set out for the country of the Nueces, which they found after going seventy leagues northward to the Pecos and thence forty leagues toward the east. Mendoza kept a diary of the expedition which identifies the Nueces with one of the branches of the upper Colorado, probably the Concho, and with the stream visited by the expedition of 1654, for Mendoza had himself been on that journey and recognized the place. Moreover, he had with him Hernando Martin, who had been one of the leaders of the expedition of 1650. Forty leagues from the head of the Nueces, at a stream called the San Clemente, apparently the Colorado, a temporary fort and chapel were built. During the stay of several weeks a number of Indians were baptized and nearly five thousand buffalo hides secured. The Indians asked for missionaries and settlers, and before returning Father Lopez and Mendoza promised to return within a year prepared to grant the request."

22-3 When Father Lopez and Mendoza returned to El Paso they went to the City of Mexico. Father Lopez tried very hard to get missionaries and soldiers to enter the country, speaking in high terms of the country. Mendoza offered, if he had only 200 men from the jails properly equipped, to reduce the Indians to settled life.

24 The La Salle expedition, 1685-90