

C O P Y

Box 776, Ponce, P. R.,

November 17, 1932.

My dear Bishop Colmore,

This afternoon my daughter Marjorie, on an errand of mercy that took her by Quebrada Limon, found the public road leading from Marueño to the cemetery practically impassible, so she went to see Villafañe and politely requested permission to use the road through the pasture that you and all others use. To her utter surprise she was ordered to keep out and had to listen to a lot of vain glorious boasting on the part of Villafañe about being absolutely in charge.

Now my dear Bishop this is a most astounding outrage, and I am giving you the opportunity of straightening the matter out, and I most solemnly affirm that as GOD IS MY WITNESS, unless this matter is satisfactorily adjusted by the last day of this month, I will proceed to take the matter up with the authorities at 281 4th Avenue and also with the civil authorities here, and to this end I shall make public all the correspondence that in any way bears on my administration at Quebrada Limon, including letters from you and Bishop Ferrando, and I assure you that my files contain documents that may come as a surprise; Moreover I can substantiate the claim that Bishop Ferrando granted my family in perpetuity the right to pass and re-pass over the trails and paths of the property belonging to him and to the Church of Jesus, and neither my wife nor either of the girls has alienated or surrendered these rights which run with the land.

I wonder if you recall how indignant I was when I thought one of the priests in Ponce was lacking in hospitality to Mr. Villafañe and how eagerly I tried to make up for it by putting all I had at his disposal?

It was my earnest wish to do all in my power to aid and encourage the new incumbent, the more so after receiving your letter in which you explained his unreasonableness by telling me that he suffered from an "inferiority complex." From the first he was rotten with jealousy on account of my influence with the people, and he told me in one of his fits of megalomania (and this was some time before the committee came to report on the farm work) that before long he was assured that he would have my house and my job. It is all right with me his passing me on the road without even acknowledging my greeting, but when it comes to his insulting the ladies of my family and ordering them off the trails to which they have a right, then I think it is time to invoke the law, unless the Church authorities can deal with the matter.

I am truly sorry to mix you up in an embarrassing situation - But think how much more embarrassing it may be to us all if I am forced to take drastic steps - There will be no quarter then, and I assure you that I will not make a single charge or statement that can not be supported by documentary evidence - However I sincerely hope that such a scandal can be averted, and I feel sure that you being a Christian and a gentleman in addition to being my Bishop, will not

feel like declaring a state of war against a member of your flock who has the added claim on your consideration of being until recently a missionary of the Church.

I will suggest that it will be well to have your answer to this letter contain more than just a promise to investigate- Sometime during this present month I shall expect a note from you to the effect that you have no objection to my family's using the regular roadways on the place. Failing to receive such, a carbon of this will go forward to 281 on Dec. 1st with a carefully prepared brief and on the same day some member of my family will make a test case by using said road and not desisting until force or threat of force is used. But God forbid that I should have to do any more fighting, its getting on toward the season of Peace on Earth and goodwill toward men, and I for one will be glad to bury the hatchet that should never have been drawn in the first place.

As ever yours faithfully,

(signed) J. C. M. Valentine.

P. S. If you think it would be well to talk the matter over with me in deciding just what form Villafañe's apology shall take I suggest that you take lunch with us at Alisios some day between now and the end of the month, but be sure and let me know the day so that I will be at home- I expect to have a good deal of business in Ponce in the next few days. We would like you to see more of Los Alisios and are very sorry that at present we have to limit our hospitality ad mensae, before long we hope to have a prophet's chamber as part of the establishment.

J. C. M. V.