

Quebrada Limon,
Box 776 Ponce, P.R.
Feb. 16, 1932.

My dear Bishop,

Thanks for your generous reply to my letter. I prefer not to accept half of the Maruenguez land, though no doubt it is worth more than the 10 acres I selected. I am sure when the Board becomes owner of all the property they would want an unobstructed layout to the north.

It would suit me much better to accept your alternative offer of a cash value, but I don't like to think of it coming out of your personal funds.

I cannot help feeling that due to sickness and worry and also to the fact that at the time you did not attach much importance to the transaction, you have not preserved a clear recollection of it. I remember well when you made the proposition you explained that it would be valuable insurance to my family with the certainty of a valuable property coming to me in 5 years. According to my interpretation of the instrument (and also Mr. Para Capo's after he re-read it and recalled the conference in his office) as compensation for remaining for 5 years I was to have a one-third share of all the land except of course the 113 cuerdas already sold

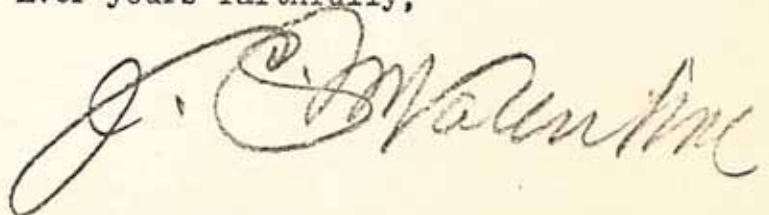
I was overwhelmed with the magnitude of your generosity but justified my acceptance of it by assuming that it was worth a good deal to you to be sure of having as permanent residents in the community a family of Church people whose evangelical tradition coincided with your views in regard to methods of approach in the matter of betterment work among the hill people.

On the strength of the certainty of valuable property passing to my family at my death I permitted insurance to lapse which could not now be renewed. I lost nine thousand dollars in the Florida bank failures and subsequent shrinkage of securities- that was almost all we had, but I managed to scrape together a few hundred dollars and buy a tiny finca on Marueno which will be our home when they are done with me here- That is why I selected 10 acres on Marueno; I estimate the value of the 10 acres at \$1500 and on that basis I will accept your alternative offer of a cash settlement. I will say, however, that I am not asking for anything at all at this time and am quite content to wait another year and risk negotiations with the Board of Missions - If however you are anxious to close the whole thing at once I will gladly sign away any interests and estates in the property as soon as Mr. Para Capo presents the necessary documents and the consideration, and I assure you I will continue to carry out the spirit of our agreement by investing the whole amount of the cash settlement in a permanent home in Marueno..

I wish with all my heart I was able to renounce my rights in the property without any compensation whatever, but on the strength of my expectations I have made such commitments that I simply am not able to do it. All salaries in this Mission field are cut 10%, The appropriation for my farm work is cut 18%, and the end is not yet in sight.

Here's hoping that better days are in store and that when they come we will both be young enough to enjoy them- In the meantime my belt is tightened up to the last hole.

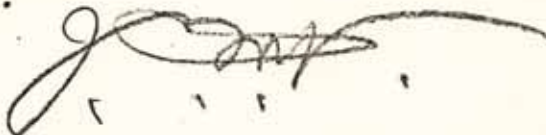
Ever yours faithfully,



P.S. I have just read over the foregoing and must admit I don't like it. It sounds too much as though I were insisting upon legal rights. I would rather surrender in toto all expectations than to think that anything might change those blessed relations between us when we lived in the same house and you were my Bishop and I was your enthusiastic disciple. During those few months I saw the Church as a real vital force and not as a tailor's parade of mitres, copes and a whole lot of elaborate vestments- Nowadays so far as I am concerned the Light is generally obscured by the smoke from incense and the vaporings of some priestling who thinks his own importance is emphasized by elaborate cottas, copes albs etc and the rattling of the dead bones of ancient superstitions which at one time had meaning but now are a poor substitute for the love, fellowship and encouragement that these people are entitled to. With these sentiments in mind I will modify my letter by saying that if you cannot see your way clear to conveying me the 10 acres on Marueno I will gladly accept as settlement in full your own proposition of cash value based on what you consider to be the value of the Marungueyes land offered me-- Provided your estimate is not too impossibly at variance with the figure quoted in my letter.

I can see the advantage of not having to alter the map and this is an argument in favor of the cash value instead of my accepting half the Marunqueyes land.

I feel sure that now there is nothing to prevent your speedily concluding your transaction, and I will suggest that it will hasten matters if your reply to me and your instructions to Mr. Parra Capo are sent by air mail.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Parra Capo', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right. Below the signature are several small, faint marks that look like initials or a date.