

ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT A GUERRILLA

Ramón Salas, Intendant of Guadalajara
to Juan Martin Diez (1775–1825)

Guadalajara, 5 February 1810

As I have received no answer to the letter I sent you by the hands of my friend, I write this to repeat all those assurances and offers which I made to you; for your own sake, as well as for that of the country which you wish to serve, I ardently pray you to be convinced of the benefit which would result from your joining a good king who is loved by all those who know him, and by your accepting those favors and recompenses which he so graciously offers you through me.

I implore you then, Señor Don Juan, to take advantage of the auspicious moment; let not the golden opportunity pass. If you do, I know not to what you can have recourse for salvation, for you will be persecuted without any cessation; rest assured there will not be a corner of the peninsula which will not be overrun by the numerous French troops which are every hour pouring into Spain. The whole of the Andalusias have submitted to King Joseph, and overwhelm him with their prayers. The Junta of Seville has fled precipitately, having first given up Ceuta to the English, our eternal enemies; and will you not contribute, as far as with you rests, to prevent those evils which a useless resistance may still entail upon the country? I wish very much we could talk this matter over together, and I leave you to select the spot where we might meet; but this recollect, that if you choose to come to this town, it is with me you must lodge, and I will with my own person be the guarantee of the safety of yours. The military governor of the province is equally desirous to see you; but if you should prefer it, the Governor-General of Madrid will send an aide-de-camp to meet you wherever you shall appoint. Reflect upon these proposals, and be assured they are made to you in good faith and sincerity and as a friend.

-. *The Life and Military Exploits, etc. etc. of Don Juan Martin Diez, The Empecinado...*(1823):50–52.