

ENTREATY

Major-General Joseph Léopold Sigisbert Hugo (1773–1828)

to Juan Martin Diez (1775–1825)

7 December 1810

The opinion I have formed of you and your good judgment leads me to hope that you cannot be one of those who so idly lend their ears to the foolish and absurd reports which are constantly spread, nor can I suppose that you give credit to them, especially in such preposterous cases as that of the reported victory gained over Marshal Massena; these foolish stories my impose upon weak minds but can make no impression upon sensible men.

Affairs must immediately take a turn; and a few men who have obstinately persisted in resisting us will see how silly their efforts have been, and how ill judged in holding out so long. There is not a Spaniard who does not agree in opinion that King Joseph unites in his person every great and amiable quality; why should the beautiful fields of Spain be drenched with blood? Why should Spaniards destroy Spaniards? Why endeavor to excite the people of the present generation to destroy their possessions, de-populate the towns, and ultimately seek their own destruction for the vain purpose of placing upon the throne a king, when we have at this moment upon that throne one of the best of kings? Many evils may yet be avoided and particularly in this province where all hostilities ought to cease, what difficulty can there be? What objection can exist to your serving Spain under the dominion of King Joseph? And why should not the brave officers and men as well of the cavalry as the infantry who are under your orders enter into his service and receive a truly military organization?

If you wish to know my intentions towards you and those of your corps, send to me any person of confidence to learn them; if you wish to include the junta of this province you may do so. I hope to have an immediate answer, and I beg to assure you of my protection, and of the perfect consideration with which

-. *The Life and Military Exploits, etc. etc. of Don Juan Martin Diez, The Empecinado...*(1823):81–82.