

ther on there is a population called Charruaes who eat human flesh and live by hunting and fishing. Here came our brigantine and we went to the Island of Las Pietras seventy leagues further on. Here we remained to put together the brigantine which we were carrying in separate pieces, and after she was equipped I began to ascend the river with her and after sailing twenty-five leagues we came to a place where there were two of Sebastian Cabot's ships, and Anthony de Grajeda was there as a guard.\* "He came against us with some Indian canoes and an armed boat believing we were Rojas and Michael Rodas and Martin Mendez coming to attack him, for he had left them on an island abandoned among Indians, and we thought we should have to fight supposing that he came to hurt us. But I recognized him as Anthony de Grajeda, and we knew at once that it was Sebastian Cabot's fleet, and we went with him to his ships and he showed us great honor, and gave us news of his Captain-general, and how he had received a letter that day in which he informed him how he had killed more than four hundred Indians, and was going with great victory further up the river making war on the Indians. We went back to our ships and with the approval of all my officers it was immediately agreed to send the ship out of the river because she was in great danger from the strong winds blowing at that season in the river, and let her go to take in the cargo of slaves of the said bachelor who had chartered her for Spain, and would carry the news how Sebastian Caboto was doing on the river." And the (big) ship went to St. Vincent, and the others joined Sebastian Cabot's ships, and fifteen days after, I left there on my brigantine with sixty men and we arrived eighty leagues further up at a place where Sebastian Cabot had for a fort a house all made of straw and he called it the Fort of San Espiritu, and Gregory Caro was there on guard. So far we saw no Indians, and in this place and around it there were Indians called Guaranis.\* "We urged Gregory Caro to abandon this conquest because it did not concern him, and he answered us very well, and said that they were in that house for His Majesty and Se-

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\* Literal translation of the text.