

terras et Insulas per eos actualiter non possessas pro infectis haberi volumus, necnon omnibus illis quæ in litteris prædictis volumus non obstare, ceterisque contrariis quibuscunque.

Datum Romæ, apud sanctum Petrum, anno incarnationis dominicæ millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo tertio. Sexto kalendas octobris, pontificatus nostri anno secundo.

#### TRANSLATION.

ALEXANDER, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, to the Illustrious sovereigns, his very dear son in Christ Ferdinand, the king, and to his very dear daughter in Christ, Isabella, the queen of Castile, Leon, Aragon and Granada—Health and apostolic benediction.

Whereas, a while ago, we, of our mere will, certain knowledge and in the fulness of our apostolic power, gave, conceded and assigned, in perpetuity, to you and your heirs and successors, the kings of Castile and Leon, all and singular the islands and mainlands discovered or to be discovered, towards the west and south, which were not under the actual temporal dominion of some Christian master; with these we invest you and your heirs and successors aforesaid; and we have constituted and appointed you as lords of those regions, with full, free and entire power, authority and jurisdiction, as set forth more fully in our letters drawn up for that purpose; the purport of which letters we ordain to be held as completely expressed as if they were recited in these present letters, word for word.

Since, moreover, it may happen that your emissaries, captains, or vassals, when sailing towards the west and south, may turn towards the eastern regions and find islands and mainlands which are, or were, to that quarter pertaining; wishing, to follow up our gracious favours to you by similar favours, we, of our will, knowledge and fulness of apostolic power, equally extend and enlarge, with apostolic authority, by the tenor of these presents, in everything and in all respects, the same as if in the aforesaid letters full and express mention had been made of them, the donation, concession, assignment and letters aforesaid, with all and singular the clauses contained in the same letters, to apply to all and singular the islands and mainlands found and to be found, discovered and to be discovered, which in sailing or journeying in this manner towards the west or south may be, or shall be, or shall appear, whether they actually are in western or in southern and eastern regions or in India.

Granting to you and to your heirs and successors aforesaid, the full and free faculty of taking and perpetually holding, freely of your own authority, by yourselves or by another or others, bodily possession of the aforesaid islands and lands, and also of defending them against all persons who may obstruct; and most strictly prohibiting all persons soever, even of any dignity soever, or status, rank, order, or condition, under penalty of excommunication (*latæ sententiæ*) which transgressors by the very act will incur, from presuming to go, or send, to the said part, to navigate, fish, or seek out islands or mainlands, under any pretext, without the special and express license of you and your aforesaid heirs.

Notwithstanding constitutions and apostolic ordinances and any donations, concessions, faculties and assignments, made by ourselves or our predecessors to all persons whomsoever; to kings or princes, to persons of royal houses (*infantibus*), or any other persons, to regular orders and to military orders, for the aforesaid regions, seas, islands and lands or for any part of them, without regard to the causes of the grant, even if for objects of piety, or of religion, or of redeeming captives or to other causes of the most urgent nature, and with clauses of whatever kind, even derogations of derogations the strongest most efficacious and unusual, and containing judgments, censures and penalties of any kind which have not come into effect by means of actual and real possession, even supposing that, at some time, those to whom donations and concessions of this nature have been made or their emissaries may have sailed there.