

interesting to your excellency. The book which contains my charts also contains part of the blotters of a voyage to the source of the Mississippi, which I presume cannot be interesting to the Spanish government.

But to conclude, I have only to request of your excellency to know if it is your intention to detain my papers now in your possession; if so, that you may cause me to be furnished (or suffer me to take) a copy of them, and that I may receive a certificate from under your hand, of the number, nature, &c. of the said papers, and the reasons for their seizure and detention, in order that my government may be enabled to make the proper application to the Spanish court for an explanation. My reason for applying to your excellency so early on this subject, is that on the arrival of my men, who are still in the rear, I might be prepared to march in a short period of time, (for under the present aspect of affairs) I feel conscious that I am as anxious to arrive on the territories of the United States, as your excellency must be for me to quit the dominions of his catholic majesty.

In all events, I hope you will believe me to be with the highest sentiments of personal respect,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

Z. M. Pike.

His excellency, brigadier general Don Nemesio Salcedo, commanding-general of the interior province of the kingdom of New Spain.

[No. 15.]

TRANSLATION.

OF the papers connected with the expedition, which by orders of the United States government, you have made from the St. Louis of the Illinois, unto the settlements of New Mexico, and which you yourself* separated from those which you brought here and put into my hands the day you arrived in this town. There has been formed an inventory and certificate respecting each of them accompanying it to you, and deposited in the office, the 17th current, for the purpose

* See my account of the seizure of my papers, April 1st, 1807.