

THE FIRST JESUIT RESIDENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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In a previous issue of the Cultura Social we have given a portion of a letter of Father Antonio Sedeno, S. J. written in Manila on June 12, 1582, in which he describes the journey across the Pacific after leaving Acapulco on March 29, 1581. We now present another portion of Father Sedeno's letter in which he describes the first Jesuit Residence. He recounts that they were received with great charity by the Franciscan Fathers and :

two days later we went to visit the Governor who^f received us very well and then began to discuss the questions of giving us a lodatation and building a house. Suiting the action to the word he gave orders that wood be cut and designated a plat of land in the best, most healthful and pleasant part of the city, although at the end of it. He assigned us a credit of two hundred pesos. When I informed him that we had come to investigate and that possibly the Sociey would not make a permanent establishment here he replied that the King was bearing the expense and would remain the house in case we were ordered to another place.

We look from the front of a little more than one hundred paces, and from the back to an estero which connects with the large river coming from the lake which supplies this city.

In this location we have our house, the best in the city of its size, the wooden posts of which are very long and thick and so incorruptible that they will last hundreds of years above and below ground. The height of the floor above the ground is about three brazas; the building is very cool and large enough for those of the Society who will come in good time.

Our neighbors are fishermen who catch great quantities of sardines, like those of Spain, and other fish and they always make us a present of some. When the