

## MISCELLANY

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### CONDITIONS IN GUAM IN 1678

In the January, 1946, issue of the REVIEW there was published a translation of an account of missionary activities in the Marianas Islands from June, 1681, to June, 1682. The reader is referred to that document for some details of the origin of the missionary work in those islands.

Herewith are presented some excerpts from a letter written in Guam in 1678 by Father Emmanuel de Solórzano, and to the best of our knowledge these excerpts have never been published. They are preserved in a set of manuscripts copied from the originals and presented to Georgetown University in 1854 by the Reverend George Schwarz, S.J., of Vienna, Austria. The translation from the original Latin was done by the undersigned.

Father Emmanuel de Solórzano was born at Fregenal, Spain, on December 25, 1649, and was admitted to the Society of Jesus on March 21, 1666. He was sent to the Marianas Islands where he became vice-provincial of that mission and died at the hands of the natives on March 24, 1684.

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I came to this island and the principal residence of our Mission in the Marianas, that is to Agadna,<sup>1</sup> on June 20, 1676, and three days later, with one companion, I commenced to work in this vineyard of the Lord, and I conferred baptism on a little girl whom I named Mary.

Our mode of travel is to go on foot with stick in hand, which has a cross on top, without bag or wallet; ordinarily we make the journey bare-legged to the knees (many streams compel us to this), not without many and serious injuries to the feet from brambles and thorns and the burning heat of the sand.

The island of San Juan,<sup>2</sup> as much as is known, is very fertile and pleasing and easily produces crops, fruits and plants of the Philippines and New Spain which are sown in it. Its climate is temperate and very healthful, such as I have not experienced in my life. Spring lasts during eight months of the year; during four heat prevails, namely, June, July,

<sup>1</sup> One of the early variations of the name Guam.

<sup>2</sup> The name given to Guam by the missionaries.