

from Autiamque to seeke Nilco, which the Indians said was neere the Great riuer, with-determination to come to the Sea, and procure some succour of men and horses: for hee had now but three hundred men of warre, and fortie horses, and some of them lame, which did nothing but helpe to make vp the number: and for want of iron they had gone aboute a yeere vnshod: and because they were vsed to it in the plaine countrie, it did them no great harme. Iohn Ortiz died in Autiamque; which grieved <sup>The death of</sup> the Gouvernour very much: because that without an Iohn Ortiz, Interpretour hee feared to enter farre into the land, <sup>and the great misse of him</sup> where he might be lost. From thence forward a being their youth that was taken in Cutifachiqui did serue for interpretour. Interpretour, which had by that time learned somewhat of the Christians language. The death of Iohn Ortiz was so great a mischief for the discovering inward, or going out of the land, that to learne of the Indians, that which in foure words hee declared; they needed a whole day with the youth: and most commonly hee vnderstood quite contrarie that which was asked him: whereby it often happened that the way that they went one day, and sometimes two or three daies, they turned backe, and went astray through the wood here and there. The Gouvernour spent ten daies in traueiling from Autiamque to a prouince called Ayays; and came to a towne that stood neere the Riuer that passeth by Cayas and Autiamque. There hee commanded a barge to be made, wherewith he passed the Riuer. When he had passed the Riuer there fell out such weather, that foure daies he could not trauell for snow. <sup>Great snow about the twentieth of March.</sup> Assoone as it gaue ouer snowing, hee went three daies iourney through a Wildernesse, and a countrie so low, and so full of lakes and euill waies, that hee trauelled one time a whole day in water, sometimes knee deepe, sometimes to the stirrup, and sometimes they swamme. He came to a towne called Tutelpinco, abandoned, and without Maiz: there passed by it a lake, that entered into the riuer, which carried a great streame and force of water. Fiue Christians passing ouer it in a periagua, which the Gouvernour had sent with a Captaine, the periagua ouerset: some tooke hold on it, some on the trees that were in the lake. One Francis Sebastian, an honest man of Villa noua de Barca Rota, was drowned there. The Gouvernour went a whole day along the lake seeking passage, and could finde none, nor any way that did passe to the other side.