

it on board, and desire that no farther mention be made of it so long as we shall remain in the harbour, there being Portuguese, Biscayans, and French, not far off, from whom this discovery must be kept a secret. When we are at sea an assay shall be made of it, and then, if we think proper, we may return the sooner hither."

At this time, while his faithful companions were endeavouring to accelerate the preparations for the continuation of the voyage, a party had conspired to prevent it by seizing the vessels and the officers during the absence of Sir Humphrey in the night, after which they intended to proceed directly for England. This conspiracy was discovered in time to prevent its execution; but some of the refractory crews still succeeded in their attempts to abandon the General. A vessel freighted with fish in one of the adjoining bays were seized upon by some of them, who compelled her crew to retire to the shore, whilst numbers, concealing themselves in the woods, watched for opportunities to escape in the ships which daily departed from the coast; others fell sick of fluxes and other violent disorders, of which several died, and the rest were permitted to return to England on board the Swallow, under Captain William Winter, with such a supply of provisions as could be spared from the common stock.

The three remaining vessels being completely fitted for the intended voyage, the General hoisted his flag on board the Squirrel, a light and expeditious sailer, and the best constructed for the purpose of entering creeks and small harbours; he gave the command of the Delight to Captain Maurice Brown, and the Golden Hind to Captain Edward Hayes. On the 20th of August they sailed from the harbour of Saint John's which they found by observation to be in forty-seven degrees forty minutes north latitude. In the following night they made Cape Race, distant twenty-five leagues, and from thence nearly eighty-seven leagues towards Cape Breton.