

his hopes had nearly been frustrated of reaping the honour of the project, by Ruy Falero contesting with him the honour of bearing the royal standard. This matter being adjusted, and his rival persuaded to remain at home on account of a precarious state of health, which was very unequal to such a distant and uncertain voyage, Magellan was invested with the sole command of the squadron, and the business proceeded.

This squadron consisted of five ships: the *St. Antonio* bearing the admiral's flag; *Juan de Cartagena*, vice admiral; the *St. Jago*, commanded by *Juan Roderiquez Serrano*; and the *Conception*, *Gaspar de Quesada* master, and two others. These set sail from Cadiz on the 10th of August 1517, and arriving in safety at Teneriffe on the 2d of September, sailed from thence for Rio Janeiro, on the coast of Brasil. After refreshing at this place, and taking in such necessaries as the voyage required, they pursued their course.

This course, however, was not universally agreed on. Various disputes arose about it; and some were for adopting one plan, some another. The fleet being anchored in *St. Julian's* river on Easter-day, and masts being ordered to be celebrated on shore, the three Captains, *Luys de Mendoza*, *Gaspar de Quesada*, and *Juan de Cartagena*, absented themselves; a circumstance which filled the admiral with inquietude, because, from their disobedience, as well as from other previous symptoms, he had reason to suspect that a spirit of discontent pervaded the majority of his fleet. Thus, like *Columbus*, his difficulties began at an early period: because where no one knew the course with certainty, each arrogated to himself as much right to judge of it as another.