

dread the sea however turbulent it may be ; but they must coast along the shore for reasons mentioned elsewhere, and coasting along in such a rough sea is dangerous above all things, so much so, that there is no sailor whose courage would not fail him at the very thought of it ; I think, therefore, that if there be any one willing to undertake it, it is advisable not to lose sight of him, for there may be found one who will do it, but I doubt whether there will be two ; and let it be remembered, that such voyages cannot be of the least profit to the person who performs them, but on the contrary will be attended with many inconveniences and troubles to him. As to its profits, I know not whether it will be productive of any the first time ; and we have no reason to be assured that our enemies may not have discovered this passage or some other which leads into the South Sea, because we know they are great seamen, and as enterprising as myself, ready to rush forward with impetuosity as I have done ; and I repeat, Sire, that their desire to discover this strait is so great, (as I learn from the account of Captain Balthazar de Just, residing in Fontarabia, who was corresponding with me concerning this affair on the 6th of July, this year, 1609,) that the French have established a garrison on the banks of the river in Canada, which is three hundred leagues within Newfoundland, confident of discovering from thence a passage to the South Sea. I mention this, not because I think it likely that they will discover a passage, (because it is impossible that this river can run farther than one hundred leagues, for I coasted along the greater part of it to discover the coast of America about the South Sea, and I found no strait nor entrance of a river which was of any importance,) but I mention it, Sire, that your Majesty may perceive with what diligence our enemies are making use of every means of discovering a passage.

Also let me advise your Majesty, that if you should send an expedition on another voyage of discovery, let it be