

captain of one of these ships, and Gaspar de Queixada of another, the former the *Victoria*, the latter the *Conception*.

Under the circumstances we need not be astonished if we find Magellan had recourse to strong measures to save his expedition being brought to such a disgraceful termination.

Having heard of their intentions from one Ambrosio Fernandez his chief constable, he ordered him to pick out six of the best men of his crew, to arm them well, and then to repair on board Mendoza's ship as if to treat with him, but really to stab him; this Magellan foresaw would go far towards quelling the mutiny of itself, but like a wise general never lost sight of the fact that a reserve might be wanted.

The fleet it would seem were moored in line, so that Magellan had, with the flood tide, Mendoza's ship astern of him and that of Queixada ahead: he ordered a strong hawser to be attached to the cable of his own ship and the crew to arm themselves and prepare to board; when the flood tide was at its strongest, Fernandez set forth on his perilous adventure, but, as he had expected, Mendoza would not let him come on board, after some talk however, during which Fernandez showed him that he was only one man against so many, and that it was absurd to think that he could do him any harm, he was allowed on board, no sooner had his feet touched the deck than he seized Mendoza in his arms, exclaiming "on behalf of the Emperor you are arrested," the boat's crew, well armed, rushed on deck to the constable's assistance; and so surprised were the crew of the *Victoria* at this daring attempt, that it was some moments before they fully appreciated the position.

Meantime Magellan had veered away the hawser attached to his cable, and the flood tide had brought his ship alongside