

the coast from east to west until they reached that running northeast and southwest, and there they settled. And as they had lost their ships, nothing further was heard of them, save from the Basques who continue to visit that coast in search of the many articles to be obtained there, who bring word of them and state that they [the settlers] asked them to let us know how they were, and to take out priests; for the natives are submissive and the soil very fertile and good, as I have been more fully informed, and is well known to those who sail thither. This is at cape Breton, at the beginning of the coast that runs north, in a beautiful bay, where there are many people and goods of much value and many nuts, chesnuts, grapes and other fruits, whereby it is clear the soil is rich. And in this company went also some families from the Azores islands whom they took on board on their way out, as is well known. May our Lord in his mercy open a way by which to succour them. And my purpose is to go to this coast, in the voyage I shall make to the island of San Francisco¹, which can all be done in one journey.

Since at the time the ancients gave² information of these islands, the route had not been brought to the perfection it now is, it is necessary to feel one's way in those parts with an addition of one degree to the north or to the south and between west and east, coming back by the best course known to the traders, should God not be pleased to send me there, since in addition to a knowledge of navigation, I possess other rules of the mathematical sciences and a good mind for all that is required in the said discovery. And may God ordain what is best for His holy service. And I have written this and whatever else is among my papers, because I never know what the Lord God will do with me, and therefore should this prove of use to any one, I beg him to pray God for my soul, as I do in behalf of those who collected the information in my possession; for this is the duty of a good neighbour and of all mine; and all may be thus, as was and is the most part that is inhabited.

Translated in part by the Rev. George Patterson in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada*, VIII, sec. II, 163-4, Montreal, 1891.

1. Il est difficile d'indiquer b'île dont il s'agit: "Cf the map is Senhor do Canto's reprint."

2. Give.