

of dried fish, six hundred ducats' worth of oil, vinegar, and pulse; three hundred ducats' worth of cheese, one hundred ducats' worth of salt—for it will be of much importance to carry out a good quantity, as it will be of use when there is plenty of fish, or when arriving at a place where meat can be procured, they may be preserved during the whole voyage by means of the salt.

All which expenses will amount to forty-seven thousand and seventy-seven ducats; and this is the utmost that the fitting out of the ships will cost, though there must be other lesser things which are absolutely necessary: and on good consideration it will be perceived how cheaply so great an advantage may be purchased, which is indeed one of the greatest that can now offer itself; for by this means may be prevented the great misfortunes which may befall the kingdoms of your Majesty from neglecting to navigate this strait; and finally, it will be advisable to take possession of whatever others may have seized upon, to our prejudice; for I know not in what the policy consists that would suffer strangers to take possession of that which has been discovered by Spaniards, particularly when it is in their power to injure us by so doing, and to make war on us: and not only this, but should they acquire possession of this strait, they will without doubt give the best fruits of this kingdom to the devil—the souls of the natives—disseminating among them their wicked and perverted doctrines; for we run all these risks by neglecting the navigation of this strait and leaving it free for our enemies, by which they may get possession of all those kingdoms,—and that they may do with greater facility by means of the recent discovery of Terra Australis; for as it is so large and extensive a region, (according to their account of it,) whoever has possession of it will also be masters of the whole South Sea; for if notwithstanding the distance of the route they have to pass, round the Cape of Good Hope, the enemy has found means to establish in India and those