

Saint Iohn de  
Villa a Port.  
The Spaniards  
deceived.

Our requests.

The fleet of  
Spaine.

The manner of  
the Port S. Iohn  
de Villa.

North winde  
perilous.

1300 thousand  
pound.

A Viceroy.

Faire wordes  
beguiled.

Our requests.

The peace con-  
cluded.

a quiet place for the repairing of our fleets. Shortly after this the 16 of September we entered the Port of Saint Iohn de Villa and in our entrie the Spaniards thinking vs to be the fleet of Spaine, the chiefe officers of the Countrey came aboard vs, which being deceived of their expectation were greatly dismayed: but immediatly when they sawe our demand was nothing but victuals, were recomfited. I found also in the same Port twelue ships which had in them by the report two hundred thousand pound in gold & siluer, all which (being in my possession, with the kings lland as also the passengers before in my way thitherward stayed) I set at libertie, without the taking from them the waight of a groat: onely because I would not be delayed of my dispatch, I stayed two men of estimation and sent post immediatly to Mexico, which was two hundred miles from vs, to the Presidentes and Councell there, shewing them of our arriual there by the force of weather, and the necessitie of the repaire of our shippes and victuals, which wanted we required as friends to king Philip to be furnished of for our money: and that the Presidents and Councell there should with all convenient speede take order, that at the arriual of the Spanish fleet, which was dayly looked for, there might no cause of quarrell rise betweene vs and them, but for the better maintenance of amitie, their commandement might be had in that behalfe. This message being sent away the sixteenth day of September at night, being the very day of our arriual, in the next morning which was the seuteenth day of the same moneth, we sawe open of the Hauen thirteene great shippes, and vnderstanding them to bee the fleet of Spaine, I sent immediatly to aduortise the Generall of the fleet of my being there, doing him to vnderstand, that before I would suffer them to enter the Port, there should some order of conditions passe betweene vs for our safe being there, and maintenance of peace. Now it is to be vnderstood that this Port is made by a little lland of stones not three foote aboue the water in the highest place, and but a bow-shoot of length any way, this lland standeth from the maine land two bow shootes or more, also it is to be vnderstood that there is not in all this coast any other place for shippes to arriue in safety, because the North winde hath there such violence, that vnlesse the shippes be very safely moored with their ankers fastened vpon this lland, there is no remedie for these North winde but death: also the place of the Hauen was so little, that of necessitie the shippes must ride one aboard the other, so that we could not giue place to them, nor they to vs: and here I beganne to bewaile that which after followed, for now, said I, I am in two dangers, and forced to receiue the one of them. That was, either I must haue kept out the fleet from entering the Port, the which with Gods helpe I was very well able to doe, or else suffer them to enter in with their accustomed treason, which they neuer faile to execute, where they may haue opportunitie, to compasse it by any meanes: if I had kept them out, then had there bene present shipwracke of all the fleet which amounted in value to sixe Millions, which was in value of our money 1800000. li. which I considered I was not able to answer, fearing the Queenes Maiesties indignation in so waightie a matter. Thus with my selfe reuoluing the doubts, I thought rather better to abide the lutt of the vncertainie, then the certaintie. The vncertainie doubt I account was their treason which by good policie I hoped might be preuented, and therefore as chusing the least mischief I proceeded to conditions. Now was our first messenger come and returned from the fleet with report of the arriual of a Viceroy, so that hee had authoritie, both in all this Prouince of Mexico (otherwise called Nueva Espanna) and in the sea, who sent vs word that we should send our conditions, which of his part should (for the better maintenance of amitie betweene the Prince) be both fauourably granted, and faithfully performed, with many faire wordes how passing the coast of the Indies he had vnderstood of our honest behaviour towardes the inhabitants where we had to doe, aswell elsewhere as in the same Port, the which I let passe: thus following our demand, we required victuals for our money, and licence to sell as much ware as might furnish our wants, and that there might be of either part twelue gentlemen as hostages for the maintenance of peace: and that the lland for our better safetie might be in our owne possession, during our abode there, and such ordinance as was planted in the same lland which were eleuen peeces of brasse: and that no Spaniard might land in the lland with any kind of weapon: these conditions at the first he somewhat misliked, chiefly the guard of the lland