

charge all offenders, and remain in California alone. At last, he determined to discharge them, relying on providence, for a fresh reinforcement of men ; in which he was not disappointed.

Towards the end of the year 1702, two barks committed such disorders, that the captain was obliged to march with some of his soldiers, in defence of the Indians. Having parted the fray, he demanded from the men in the bark, to produce the viceroy's licence for diving : and their answer was for him to produce the warrant by which he acted as judge and superior. But not having any particular warrant, the affair went no farther. The captain, on his arrival at Loretto, sent the viceroy an account of this quarrel, and many other violences committed on the Indians, the danger of a general discontent and revolt ; and desiring instructions how to behave on similar occasions. This letter was read in the royal council of Mexico, on the 18th of January 1703 ; and being referred to the treasurer, his opinion was, that circular orders should be sent for prohibiting the fishing for pearls, till an account should be laid before his majesty ; that enquiry should be made after all who had presumed to dive without licence, in order to bring them to punishment, according to the