

go and fish for pearls, began to build larger barks: and in them, without any apprehension, to sail to the opposite coast, to trade for pearls, but much more to fish for them; employing the Californians who lived along the shore, and generally by compulsion, though they never made them any allowance. The soldiers and seamen of the garrison were several times urgent with father Salva-Tierra, that they might be allowed to dive; but the father, in order to put a stop to the evil, absolutely refused to grant the least privilege of that kind.

This caused great discontent among them, many demanded their discharge, and all complained. The father, however, continued unshaken in his intention, on no account to admit them to dive for pearls.

He was confirmed in this opinion, by a particular incident. He had sent a bark to the neighbouring island of Carmen, which made a longer stay than the service required. The father suspected that they spent their time in diving, and he afterwards had private intelligence that his suspicions were well founded. The father was highly displeas'd at it, but the garrison being very thin, on account of the many discharges for the same offence, he deliberated with himself, whether he should likewise discharge