

inferred, how little the inhabitants themselves can be reckoned upon, for the defence of their Coasts; and the facility which is presented to any strangers to settle upon them, without danger of meeting with opposition; more particularly, if they should attempt to land to the Northward, in the celebrated Ports of *San Diego* and *Monterrey*: a case that might bring with it fatal consequences, as they might take possession of the Lands, and fortify themselves, without any information reaching Government, or if it did, too late to prevent irreparable loss.

Upon the *South Sea*, in the whole that fronts the Coasts of *New Spain*, no other Vessels are known, but the Packet Boats, lately constructed at *San Blas*, and two others, of small burden, which served the expelled Missionarys of *California*, for communicating with the neighbouring and opposite Coasts, of *Sonora* and *New Galicia*: in these few Vessels consist the whole Maritime Force that could be opposed to all foreign invasions.

Considering then the orders received, and the small assistance that Province could yield, knowing equally that the best means could not be immediately employed, Don *Joseph de Galvez* did not give up the undertaking in which he was engaged; on the contrary, he overcame, by perseverance, the difficulties, overlooking the inconveniencies. He perceived the necessity of settling the discovered part of *California* with useful people, capable of cultivating the Lands, of profiting by the rich productions