The next morning we left Aute,* and traveled all
day before coming to the place I had visited. The
journey was extremely arduous. There were not
horses enough to carry the sick, who went on increas-
ing in numbers day by day, and we knew of no cure.
It was piteous and painful to witness our perplexity
and distress. "We saw on our arrival how small were
the means for advancing farther. There was not any
where to go ; and if there had been, the people were
unable to move forward, the greater part being ill, and
those were few who could be on duty. I cease here
to relate more of this, because any one may suppose
what would occur in a country so remote and malign,
so destitute of all resource, whereby either to live in
it or go out of it ; but most certain assistance is in Grod,
our Lord, on whom we never failed to place reliance.
One thing occurred, more afflicting to us than all the
rest, which was, that of the persons mounted, the
greater part commenced secretly to plot, hoping to
secure a better fate for themselves by abandoning the
Governor and the sick, who were in a state of weak-
ness and prostration. But, as among them were many
hidalgos and persons of gentle condition, they would
not permit this to go on, without informing the Go-
vernor and the officers of your Majesty; and as we
showed them the deformity of their purpose, and
placed before them the moment when they should
desert their captain, and those who were ill and feeble,
and above all the disobedience to the orders of your
Majesty, they determined to remain, and that whatever
might happen to one should be the lot of all, without any forsaking the rest.

After the accomplishment of this, the Governor called them all to him, and of each apart he asked advice as to what he should do to get out of a country so miserable, and seek that assistance elsewhere which could not here be found, a third part of the people being very sick, and the number increasing every hour; for we regarded it as certain that we should all become so, and could pass out of it only through death, which from its coming in such a place was to us all the more terrible. These, with many other embarrassments being considered, and entertaining many plans, we coincided in one great project, extremely difficult to put in operation, and that was to build vessels in which we might go away. This appeared impossible to every one: we knew not how to construct, nor were there tools, nor iron, nor forge, nor tow, nor resin, nor rigging; finally, no one thing of so many that are necessary, nor any man who had a knowledge of their manufacture; and, above all, there was nothing to eat, while building, for those who should labor...

Before we embarked there died more than forty men of disease and hunger, without enumerating those destroyed by the Indians. By the twenty-second of the month of September,* the horses had been consumed, one only remaining; and on that day we embarked in the following order: In the boat of the Governor went forty-nine men; in another, which he gave to the Comptroller and the Commissary, went as many others; the third, he gave to Captain Alonzo del Castillo and Andres Dorantes, with forty-eight men; and another he gave to two captains, Tellez and Penaloza, with forty-seven men. The last was given to the Assessor and myself, with forty-nine men. After the provisions and clothes had been taken in, not over a span of the gunwales remained above water; and more than this, the boats were so crowded that we could not move: so much can necessity do, which drove us to hazard our lives in this manner, running into a turbulent sea, not a single one who went, having a knowledge of navigation.