

safely landed, with cattle, mules, sheep, and a variety of poultry, as well as a suitable supply of seed and agricultural implements. A fort mounting 18 guns was also constructed. But this little colony had not been long settled when it was almost totally destroyed by the same dreadful earthquake which in 1751 overthrew the city of Concepcion in Chili. With this earthquake the sea rose and overwhelmed the houses, part of which were built on the seashore; 35 persons perished, amongst whom were the Governor with his wife and family. The settlement was afterwards rebuilt in a safer position farther inshore. The expenses of this settlement in 1753 were 12,640 dollars.

Carteret was the first English navigator who noticed this settlement. He sighted Juan Fernandez in May 1767, and was greatly surprised to see a considerable number of men about the beach, with a house and four pieces of cannon near the water side, and a fort 300 yards inland on the brow of a hill with Spanish colours flying. Twenty-five or thirty houses were scattered round the fort, and many cattle were seen feeding, and the land also appeared to be cultivated. Carteret hoisted no colours but stood on for Mas-a-fuera Island. It may appear strange that Carteret, whose crew were much in want of water and refreshment, should leave an island on which he saw a settlement, cattle, &c., and prefer to proceed towards an uninhabited island, where the anchorage was bad, and the water could only be procured at considerable risk; but it must be borne in mind that the Spaniards in those days were most inhospitable, and it is related in Captain Basil Hall's "South America" that when (between the years 1784 and 1790) an American vessel from Boston touched at Juan Fernandez, having lost one of her masts, sprung her rudder, and being short of water and wood, the Viceroy of Peru and Chili reprimanded the Governor of the island for permitting the ship to repair damages and leave the port, instead of taking possession both of her and the crew, and giving an account of his having done so to his immediate superior the President of Chili. The Viceroy expressed his surprise that the Governor of an island should not know that every strange vessel which anchored in these seas, without a license from Spanish authorities, ought to be treated as an enemy, even though the nation to which she belonged should be an ally of Spain, and gave orders, should the distressed vessel appear again, that she was to be seized immediately and her crew imprisoned. Such conduct fully explains the reluctance exhibited by the old voyagers to placing themselves in the power or under the guns of a Spanish fortress, and also accounts for the meagre knowledge of the island available from the date of its first settlement by the Spaniards in 1750. In 1792 Lieutenant John Ross, R.N., then in command of a whaling vessel called the "William," visited Juan Fernandez and found forty settlers and six soldiers on the island, occupying a village in Cumberland Bay, every house having a garden attached, with arbours of vines. Figs, cherries, plums, and almonds were abundant, as also were potatoes, cabbages, onions, and other vegetables.