

1562. very ruinous foundation, basing it on the discoveries of Ponce de Leon, Luke Vasquez de Ayllon; and on the expeditions of Pamphilo de Narvaez and Hernando de Soto. Now, Ponce de Leon discovered Florida only in 1512, and several years before, Frenchmen, Englishmen, and the Portuguese Cortereal had made discoveries in North America. Ponce de Leon not only made no settlement in Florida, but on the two occasions when he landed, was obliged to re-embark at once, while the French, from the year 1504, had traded with the people of Canada. If Canada then is part of Florida, France in point of date is first in possession of Florida, and it would be ridiculous to make the imposition of a name by Ponce de Leon on a country lying on the Gulf of Mexico, give his nation a right to at least three-quarters of North America, to the exclusion of the French, who traded there and had formed alliances with nations five or six hundred leagues from his discovery.

Luke Vasquez de Ayllon discovered in 1520 the country on the Jordan, now part of Carolina. His expedition was as unsuccessful and as unproductive of results as that of John Ponce de Leon. Some years after,¹ Pamphilo de Narvaez obtained from the Emperor Charles V. the government of Florida. He visited almost all the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, had several engagements with the Indians, who killed many of his men, and at last perished miserably, without having even built a fort.²

Finally, Hernando de Soto³ during three or four years made long marches through Florida, of which he had been made captain-general; but he advanced no further north than Carolina, and died on the banks of the Mississippi, without even attempting to plant himself on a single spot.⁴

¹ 1527.

² Of this expedition we have the curious account of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, of which a translation, with notes, has been given by Buckingham Smith, 40, Washington, 1851.

³ 1538.

⁴ As to De Soto, we have the *laçam verdadeira . . . per hū fidalgō Deluas, Evora, 1557*. See a new translation, with exhaustive notes, by Buckingham Smith, New York, 1866; and *la Florida del Ynca o*