

Louis de Moscoso, his successor, soon brought back to Mexico the sad remains of his army; and not a single Spaniard remained in Florida, which was consequently in about the same condition as it had been previous to the first discovery by Ponce de Leon. 1562.

It was still so twenty years later, when Admiral de Coligni formed the project of planting a colony there composed entirely of people of his religion; a project which, according to all appearances, he did not disclose to Charles IX., to whom he displayed it only as an enterprise extremely advantageous to France. That prince left him complete master, permitting him to use to the full extent the power given him by his office. It seems even, in the sequel, that he was not so ignorant, but quite pleased that de Coligni employed only Calvinists on the expedition, because they were so many enemies of whom he delivered the State.

The admiral's chief anxiety was the selection of a leader on whom he could rely to carry out his project, and his choice fell on an old naval officer, named John de Ribaut, a native of Dieppe, a man of experience and a zealous Huguenot. He sailed from Dieppe the 18th of February, 1562, with two vessels of the kind then called *roberges*, and which differed but slightly from the Spanish caravels; he had picked crews and several volunteers, some of whom were gentlemen.¹

John de Ribaut leader of the enterprise.

The first land which he saw was a low, well-wooded point, at about 30° north, to which he gave the name of French Cape;² but he did not land there, and turning to the right he soon after discovered a river which he styled River of Dolphins, but he did not enter it. Still

He takes possession of French Florida.

Historia del Adelantado Hernando de Soto, 80, 1605, freely translated in T. Irving's Conquest of Florida. rep.), p. 94; Basanier, L'Histoire Notable de la Floride, 15.

¹ Ribauld, The Whole and True Discovery of Terra Florida (Hakluyt, Divers Voyages touching the Discoverie of America, London, 1582, Histoire Notable, p. 16. Ribauld (Whole and True Discovery, p. 197) says 29½°. Parkman thinks it one of the headlands of Matanzas Inlet. Pioneers of New France, p. 30.