

He could scarcely have placed it better. The surrounding country is beautiful, the soil fertile, the river teeming with fish, the woods full of game, the laurels and the mastics diffuse a very sweet odor, and the Indians of the district testified no less friendship to the French than those of May River had done. However, de Ribaut, convinced that he could not make a more acceptable present to the admiral and the queen-mother, sought to induce some natives to accompany him to France, but could never gain a single one.

What we have said of the neighborhood of Port Royal Description of French Florida. applies quite well to the whole country which has since borne the name of French Florida, and which lies between 30° and 35° north, from French Cape to Charles Fort. Several relations give it also the name of New France.¹ The soil is generally fertile, well watered, traversed by rivers, some of considerable size, and all abounding in fish. It was long believed that there were mines of gold, silver, and copper there, with pearls and precious stones; but as things were scrutinized more closely, it was found that there was, indeed, copper in some places, and poor enough pearls in two or three rivers, but that the gold and silver seen in the hands of the Indians came from the Spaniards, many of whom had been wrecked at the entrance of the Bahama Channel, and along the neighboring coast of Florida.² Their ships, almost always loaded with the wealth of America, were often lost on the sand-banks which line this coast, and the Indians were very careful to profit by their misfortunes. It was remarked that those nearer the sea were much better furnished than the others with their

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bauld, Whole and True Discovery, p. 114. Charles Fort was apparently on Archer's Creek, called by Ribaut the Chenonceau, about the site of Beaufort, Port Royal and Parris Island being considered as one island, and that being the eligible spot likely to take the eye. Bancroft

supposed it to have been on Parris Island. Compare Parkman, Pioneers of France, p. 34. He planted the French arms, May 20, near the River Libourne (p. 113).

¹ Laudonniere in the *Histoire Notable*, p. 4.

² *Histoire Notable*, p. 6.