

1562. a conspiracy was formed, and he was dispatched the more easily that he was entirely unguarded, although he could not but know that he was feared and hated by all. The next thought was to appoint his successor, and the selection made was wiser than might have been expected from men whose hands were still reeking with their commander's blood. They put at the head of affairs a very worthy man, named Nicholas Barré, who by his prudence and address soon restored peace and order in the colony.¹

Extremity to which the colony is reduced. Meanwhile, Mr. de Ribaut did not return, and they beheld themselves on the verge of experiencing all the horrors of famine. They were at the discretion of the Indians in regard to food, and the new commander saw clearly that this could not last long without the risk of meeting, at the hands of these savages, something worse than famine. Full of these distressing thoughts, he assembled his council, laid before them the extremity to which they would soon be reduced and what was to be feared in future. This stated, there was but one voice : all agreed that without losing a day, they should build a vessel, and as soon as it was ready, re-embark for France, if succor did not arrive.

All embark to return to France. But how accomplish this design, without shipwrights, sails, ropes, or rigging ? Necessity, when extreme, sees no difficulties, and renders easy what under other circumstances would appear impossible. All set to work. Men who, all their life, had never handled axe or tool of any kind, found themselves become carpenters and blacksmiths. Moss, and a kind of hemp which grows on the trees in a great part of Florida, served to caulk the ship ; every one gave his shirts and sheets to make sails ; the ropes were made with the bark of trees ; and in a short time the vessel was finished and launched. A little of this industry and this ardor, better applied, would have enabled them to subsist for a time ; but they were dis-

¹ Histoire Notable, pp. 53, 54.