

gusted with Florida, and would perhaps have regretted to see the succor arrive which they had so long anxiously awaited. It needs but little to awaken in the French breast that deep affection for his native land which he preserves under every vicissitude.

1562.

The ship equipped, they did not defer their departure a single day ; and with the same confidence which had made them undertake the construction of a vessel without workmen or materials, they plunged unreflectingly into all the dangers which they could not but encounter on a vessel so built and equipped, and now manned by soldiers. The strangest feature was, that the only real evil which they sought to avoid, was the only one against which they neglected to provide. Our adventurers had not got far out to sea, when an obstinate calm arrested them. The provisions which they had taken on board were soon consumed, and they were at last reduced to a daily allowance of twelve or fifteen grains of maize apiece.

Even this scanty allowance did not last long. Their shoes, and every thing of leather on board, was devoured. Fresh water also failed. Some drank sea-water, and died. The vessel leaked everywhere, and the crew, perishing with hunger, were in no condition to stop it. At last the wretched men, with no food or drink of any kind, expecting to see their craft go down at any moment, lost heart entirely, and abandoned themselves to their sad fate.

They eat
one of their
number.

In this despair, some one said that one might, by the sacrifice of his own life, save the rest ; and this strange proposal was not only not rejected with horror, but was highly applauded. They had almost agreed to draw lots for the victim, when Lachau,¹ the soldier whom Captain Albert had driven out, after depriving him of his arms, declared his willingness to anticipate the death he deemed inevitable, if it could for some days prolong the life of his

¹ Lachère. See Laudonniere, in account of this voyage generally, see Histoire Notable, p. 58. For the pp. 54-9. Lescarbot (1611), p. 60.