

1564.

Laudon-
niere ex-
plores the
country on
River May.

Be that as it may, he paid a visit to Saturiova the day after his arrival, and informed him of his desire to see the country watered by the river. The paraousti consented, on condition that the voyage should not be long. A party of Indians also accompanied the French for some time, marching along both banks of the river, and incessantly repeating the word "friend." Laudonniere did not go very far; and pitching his tent at the foot of a small hill, ordered his lieutenant, the Sieur d'Ottigny, and his ensign, the Chevalier d'Erlach,¹ to ascend the river for several days.

Beauty of
the country.

These two officers soon met Indians who did not depend on Saturiova, and who, after recovering from the fright caused by the first sight of the French, took them to an old paraousti, whom they declared to be two hundred and fifty years old, and the father of six generations—which was very little for that advanced age. This man was, in fact, very decrepit and blind, with only a livid skin clinging to his bones.² One said to be his son appeared to be, at most, a man of sixty.

D'Ottigny and d'Erlach did not push their explorations beyond this point, and returned to the place where they had left their commander. As soon as they joined him, all together ascended the hill at the foot of which Mr. de Laudonniere had encamped, and from it they beheld a most agreeable country. The river, of fine width as far as the eye could reach, watered great plains, which showed every appearance of fertility. These plains were skirted by woods, the extremely tall trees being interwoven with vines, laurels, lentisks, which embalmed the air with odors. This charming view was bounded on one side by the sea, and on the other by a chain of mountains, which the Indians long persuaded the French to be rich in mines.³

¹ The documents have it d'Ar- better known than d'Erlach.—*Charl.*
lach, an effect of mispronunciation. ² *Histoire Notable*, pp. 72-5.

This gentleman was a Swiss, and ³ *Ib.*, p. 76. The hill is St. John's
there is no house in Switzerland Bluff