

1564.

without being under obligation to the Indians, re-embarked the next day with all his force, and leaving May River, entered first the Seine, then the Somme, where he met the paraousti of that canton, with his wife and four grown daughters, who did not seem to him very ill-made for Floridian girls. The paraousti received him perfectly well, and among other presents, gave him a small ball of silver. He invited the French to spend some days with him, but Laudonniere excused himself, and re-embarked at once.<sup>1</sup>

Deliberation on the site of the colony.

He then held a council to deliberate on the course to be adopted. He first stated his positive orders to make a solid settlement, and added, that the only question was a choice of place. He then represented that Cap François was apparently too low and wet a country; that Charles Fort had been built in a very convenient port, but that he did not believe the ground so fertile as that of May River; and that, moreover, as far as he could judge, this river was the easiest and shortest route to the mines spoken of. In the disposition in which all were, this last reason was conclusive; every one was of the commander's advice. They turned about at once, and the next day, the 29th of June, the three ships were at an early hour at the mouth of May River.<sup>2</sup>

Fort Caroline built. Errors of geographers and historians on this point.

The next day the fort was laid out in a very advantageous spot, about two leagues from the sea:<sup>3</sup> all labored with extreme diligence, and it was named Caroline. This name has misled many authors, who have supposed that it was the origin of that now borne by one of the finest Eng-

<sup>1</sup> Laudonniere in Basanier, *Histoire Notable*, pp. 78, 79. The chief gave them several silver balls.

<sup>2</sup> *Histoire Notable*, pp. 80, 81. "Pour nos premières années il nous estoit beaucoup plus nécessaire d'habiter es lieux abondans en vivres, que non pas es ports gaillards, beaux, profonds et plaisans à la veue." Laudonniere.

<sup>3</sup> A modern Spanish author (Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, 442, 472) confounds Caroline with Charles Fort, or rather pretends that Ribaut's fort was called Caroline, and Laudonniere's Charles Fort.—*Charlev.* Fort Caroline was on the St. John's, and according to Coppie d'une lettre venant de la Floride (Paris, 1565), "up the river, six leagues distant from the sea."