

1564. word with impunity, but he revealed nothing then. He set out with his army, which, with the auxiliary troops, was at most five hundred men; a force that gives no exalted idea of this pretended monarch, styled in some of our relations the great king Saturiova.¹

Ceremony
on prepar-
ing to
march to
war.

Before taking the field, he drew up his force in line of battle, and advancing to the bank of the river, halted to perform a ceremony, which the religion of these nations makes indispensable. He began by sitting on the ground, his vassals assuming the same position around him. He then asked for water, which was brought to him in a vessel. As soon as he took it into his hand, he seemed to enter into an agitation like that of the pythoneses and sibyls, as described by the poets. His eyes rolled fearfully in his head, and he turned them incessantly towards the sun. This lasted half an hour, with a violence that defies description.

Becoming calmer, he poured a little water on the head of each of his vassals; then, as if seized with an impulse of rage, he threw the rest into a fire kindled on purpose, crying with all his might, "Hé Timagoa." The whole army at once caught up the cry, and at this signal the chiefs rose, and all at once embarked. This ceremonial was afterwards explained to the French. They were told that Saturiova during all the time of his enthusiasm, incessantly implored of the sun victory over his enemies, and that the very fervor of his prayer put him in the state in which he was seen. While pouring water on the heads of his vassals, he offered his vows to obtain their return loaded with scalps of his enemies, and by casting water into the fire, he showed his desire to shed the last drop of the blood of Timagoa.²

After two days sailing, the warriors were within ten

¹ Laudonniere, *Histoire Notable*, pp. 97-8; Le Moyne, *Brevis Narratio*, p. 9.

² Laudonniere, p. 99. Le Moyne de Morgues depicts the scene in his eleventh plate.