

of confidence than ever, and made him several presents. His design was to banish all distrust, so as to surprise him more easily; but one of the strangest accidents, which I relate only under the guarantee of those who aver that they were eye-witnesses, induced the paraousti to believe that the surest and most advantageous course for him was to live on good terms with the French.

1564.

On the 21st of August, it thundered in such a surprising manner, half a league from Caroline, that not only the air, but the fields seemed on fire. This first storm was followed by several others, in close succession on each other, for three days; and what is peculiar, the river was so heated, that it was seen to boil, and a prodigious quantity of fish died. The woods also took fire in several places, and so suddenly that all the birds had not time to escape, and great numbers perished.¹

The French did not know what to think of what they saw; some imagined that the Indians, in order to compel them to leave the country, had set fire to their fields and their woods, so as to deprive them of all resource, and to cause them to perish by hunger, if they obstinately remained. But the Indians had quite different ideas in their heads, and Laudonniere, who perceived it, took care not to disabuse them. They had had no doubt but that all this uproar was caused by the French commander, and they sent to ask Laudonniere to stop it as soon as possible, in order to arrest the general conflagration which menaced them.²

Those who came with this petition were subjects of one of Saturiova's vassals,³ from whom Laudonniere had also demanded his prisoners, and who obstinately refused them. The commandant answered the envoys, that the misfortunes, whose consequences they so justly dreaded, were the just retribution of their master's misconduct, and it

How Laudonniere profited by it.

¹ Laudonniere, in Basanier, pp. 105-7.

² *Ib.*, p. 106.

³ Allicamany. Laudonniere in Basanier, *Histoire Notable*, p. 106.