

1564. He began by subjecting to the penalty of the law a wretch who abused his confidence to betray him. He then sent back to France¹ those of the mutineers from whom he believed that he had most to fear, availing himself for that purpose of a ship which arrived in Florida in the month of September and sailed back on the 10th of November. He believed that it would then be easier for him to be master. But he was mistaken: the fire of sedition was not only not extinguished, but, on the contrary, made the greater progress from the too speedy conviction of the commandant, that the factious were deprived of leaders. He soon saw his error, and took other steps to baffle all these plots. All whom he thought he should most distrust, he sent under a gentleman named la Rocheferriere to Outina, with orders to complete the exploration of that canton,² and he kept with him d'Ottigny and d'Erlach, his two highest officers, most devoted, as he knew, to his person.

Several French disappear.

These precautions were wisely taken, but Laudonniere did not know all the malcontents. A few days after the departure of la Rocheferriere, thirteen sailors carried off one of the two barks, used to go for provisions, and disappeared.³ Two carpenters, newly arrived from France, seized the other, and it was never known what became of them.⁴ As such boats were indispensable, Laudonniere had two others built, but they were not finished when an open revolt deprived the commandant of that resource, and the colony of half its inhabitants.

The mutineers wish to go on a cruise.

A Genevan, named Etienne, and two Frenchmen, Fourneaux and La Croix, counselled some of the volunteers and many of the soldiers to go on a cruise against the Spaniards, persuading them that the capture of a vessel of that nation, or the plunder of the least petty settlement, would

¹ Laudonniere in Basanier, p. 114. He sent the malcontents back by Captain Bourdet.

² Ib., p. 113; Le Moyne de Morgues, *Brevis Narratio*, p. 12.

³ Laudonniere, in Basanier, p. 114. ⁴ Ib., p. 115. Some suppose these runaways referred to in Hawkins (*Hakluyt*, iii., p. 517), but he evidently refers to the mutineers.