

be enough to enrich them forever. The scheme was soon concerted ; and the number of these new pirates was sixty-six, some of whom, however, joined in it rather from fear of ill-treatment which the conspirators threatened, than from any hope or desire of bettering their fortunes. Their preparations were made with great secrecy ; and one day when the commandant was sick in bed, five of the most resolute entered his room well armed : four stopped at the door, and one alone approaching the bed, told him that they were resolved to go on a cruise along the Spanish Isles.<sup>1</sup>

He replied, that before carrying out such a project, there were many things to be thought of, and that they could not be ignorant that the king and the queen regent had expressly forbidden him to allow any under his orders to undertake any thing against the Spanish colonies. "All has been considered, sir," replied the conspirator ; "it is an irrevocable step ; and any opposition on your part is vain." Fearful oaths followed this insolent reply, and the four others coming in, swearing away in the same style, they began to rummage every hole and corner of the room, in which they left nothing that could be of the least use to them. They even wounded a gentleman, who ran up at the noise and endeavored to repress their violence.

They did more. They seized the commandant, and carried him to a vessel anchored off the fort, where they kept him under close watch for two weeks, with a valet whom they left to wait upon him. They wished especially to get la Caille, a sergeant, bent on taking his life ; but he escaped, and took to the woods. They finally drew up a commission, such as they wished, to cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, and took it to Laudonnier, whom they forced, with a dagger at his throat, to sign it. In the same way, they compelled one of the two le Vasseurs to give

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<sup>1</sup> Laudonnier in Basanier, Historique Notable, p. 116 ; Le Moyne de Morgues, Brevis Narratio, pp. 12, 13.