

approached Jamaica, the governor employed a successful stratagem to escape from their hands. He proposed to send a letter to his wife by one of his sons, to inform her of his captivity and bring back the sum he had agreed upon with them for his ransom. They fell into the transparent snare; and the governor, after showing d'Oranger a letter containing only what has been mentioned, gave the bearer secret orders, which were promptly executed. Some time after, at early daybreak, our pirates were much astonished to see themselves invested by three well-armed vessels, carrying a large force. The odds were too great to risk a combat. The caravel, in which d'Oranger was with the Spanish governor, was forced to surrender. The brigantine, which carried twenty-five men, had time to cut her cable and gain the sea. It was pursued, but too late, and could not be overtaken. They doubled Cape San Antonio, the western point of Cuba, and then ranged all the northern coast of that island.¹

1565.

What befell
them at
Jamaica.

Trenchant, the pilot, who commanded her, having concerted matters with some sailors, who had, like him, been embarked by force, availed himself of the night-time to cross the Bahama Channel, which he had entered unperceived by the others. They were much astonished when they discovered the coast of Florida, but it was too late to gainsay it. They were out of provisions, and did not know where to look for any: they had therefore, perforce, to let themselves be carried along. They were but a few leagues from the May River, when Mr. de Laudonniere was informed by the Indians that a vessel, with French on board, was in sight.

Some re-
turn to Ca-
roline.

The brigantine soon after moored in the mouth of the river, and the news being carried to Caroline, the governor sent orders to Trenchant to approach the fort. The conspirators would have made opposition, but a detachment of thirty soldiers having come to seize the four most mu-

¹ Laudonniere, p. 123; Le Moyne, pp. 19, 20.