

D'Ottigny was in despair at losing so favorable an opportunity of showing the Floridians the difference between them and the French. After in vain exhausting all his eloquence to make these savages take heart again, he told them that since they abandoned him thus, on an occasion where it rested solely with them to acquire great glory, he would go alone with his band to attack Potanou, asking only a guide to lead him against the enemy. These words had all the effect that d'Ottigny had anticipated. Outina was ashamed of his cowardice: they marched on the enemy, whom they met precisely at the spot, and with the forces announced by the medicine-man. Yet they did not hesitate to charge first, and the French musketry did such terrible execution on the foremost ranks of Potanou, that his whole army disbanded in an instant. Outina, notwithstanding this unexpected success, durst not pursue the fugitives; and d'Ottigny seeing that there was neither honor nor profit to be expected with such warriors, left twelve men with his allies, and returned in all haste to Caroline.¹

He found Mr. de Laudonniere in a great strait: that commander had counted on receiving supplies from France, at the latest in April, and he had no provisions beyond what would enable them to reach that time. To crown his difficulties, the Indians began to prize European curiosities less, and sold very high every thing that the French were obliged to purchase of them. Meanwhile, the month of May was slipping by, without his receiving any tidings from France: the famine in Caroline was excessive; acorns had become the ordinary food,² and even these soon failed, and they were driven to dig up roots from the earth, which barely enabled them to prolong a languishing existence. All the elements seemed to conspire against these unfortunate colonists, fish disappeared from the river, and game from the woods and marshes.

The Indians, from whom they could not conceal their ex-

1565.

Extremity
to which
famine
brings the
French.

¹ Laudonniere, pp. 140-4.

² Hawkins in Hakluyt, iii.