

1565. tremity, and who had scarcely more than was necessary for themselves, set an exorbitant price on the little of which they chose to deprive themselves ; and when they had no more to sell, disappeared. The French sought them in the woods, put themselves at the discretion of the Indians, and more than once experienced rebuff and insult. One paraousti even went so far as to murder and rob a Frenchman, who had, he learned, some gold in his possession. Laudonnier, judging that such a crime should not be allowed to go unpunished, sent to burn the village where the barbarian lived : the latter had anticipated the step—the French found only empty cabins, easily replaced.

Violent
counsel
given to
Laudon-
niere.

In the despair in which so many misfortunes plunged them all, it was proposed by some one to go and seize Outina, to force him to give them provisions. The commander opposed, as far as he could, a step the results of which he foresaw ; but men driven by hunger listen to nothing. Laudonnier accordingly seeing that further resistance would only endanger his own authority ; seeing, too, that his best soldiers had fallen into a languor which incapacitated them from the least service ; that diseases, caused by improper food, were daily increasing, and that many were already dead, beheld himself forced to undertake the execution of a project which he detested, and from which he augured only evil.¹

The conse-
quences.

His presentiments were not unfounded : Outina was carried off, but nothing was gained thereby. His whole tribe flew to arms, and the French saw themselves on the brink of a war, which they were in no state to sustain. They had to negotiate, and restore Outina to liberty for a trifle. They soon felt the evil consequences of a step, to the injustice and danger of which, despair had closed the eyes of a famished crowd. The Indians attacked Laudonnier on his retreat, killed two of his men, and wounded more than twenty, recapturing also the small quantity of provi-

¹ Le Moyne, *Brevis Narratio*, p. 21 ; Laudonnier, p. 153.