

1565. served for the most pressing need ; and Hawkins, on his side, supplied the bread and wine, which not one of the French, including even the commandant, had touched for six or seven months. The perfect understanding between men who seemed to the Indians to be fellow-countrymen, rendered these savages more humane ; and either from fear or interest, they became more friendly, bringing in provisions from all sides.

Laudonniere had already purchased supplies from the English, as well as munitions and clothes ;¹ Hawkins not only rating the various articles low, but adding many presents.² He had, moreover, offered to carry him and his whole party to France. A slight distrust, perhaps, or some other unknown reason, prevented his accepting this offer ; but as he was satisfied that neither the court nor Admiral Coligni took any further interest in Florida, he steadily continued his endeavors to make the Spanish brigantine already mentioned seaworthy, resolved to embark as soon as possible.

Hawkins, from whom he did not conceal his project, visited this vessel, and found it very poor : he renewed his offer, and as Laudonniere persisted in his refusal, pressed him to purchase one of his vessels. The commandant consented to this the less reluctantly,³ inasmuch as the garrison declared positively that they would no longer delay their departure from a land where they were ever in danger of perishing of hunger. Strange, that among all the means of subsistence which the extreme want of provisions had suggested, it seems to have occurred to no one, to prevent a relapse into that wretched state by cultivating the ground !⁴ So difficult is idleness to overcome when it becomes habitual. They had, moreover, lost

¹ Hakluyt, iii., 518. He furnished them twenty barrels of meal and four pipes of beans. Laudonniere, p. 176, adds fifty pair of shoes, salt, and wax.

² Laudonniere mentions these with warm expressions of gratitude.

³ He paid for it in cannon and powder.

⁴ Hawkins justly censures them.