

all hope of discovering mines in Florida, and they were 1565. disgusted with a country where they could not expect to live at their ease, except by making it available through painful toil.

Meanwhile, the English set sail, a few days after Haw- Ribaut's arrival in Florida.kins' delivery of one of his vessels to de Laudonniere, and the French thought only of the preparations for their voyage. All was ready by the 15th of August, and they were merely waiting a favorable wind to weigh; but, unfortunately, this desired wind came only on the 28th.¹ They profited by it, in all haste, and were actually weighing anchor, when several sail were discovered. Laudonniere immediately sent a bark to reconnoitre; but the boat having reached the flag-ship of the strangers, did not return, which set all thinking. Laudonniere, without delay, re-entered his fort, and set all to work with extreme diligence, to put himself in a position to hold out, at least for a time.

This was no easy matter, as they had, before evacuating the place, almost completely ruined its defences, for fear that the Spaniards or English should plant themselves there, or even the Indians occupy it, so as to prevent the return of the French.² The next morning seven vessels were seen at the mouth of the river, full of armed men, August 29. with helmets on their heads, and arquebuses ready. They sailed up, till they came opposite Caroline, in order of battle, without making any reply to the hail of the sentries. Some muskets were fired at them, but they were out of range. The artillery was about to be opened upon them, when some one rising, cried out: "It is Mr. de Ribaut."³

Great surprise and joy, not unmixed with fear, reigned in the fort. Laudonniere supposed himself beyond re- Object of his voyage.

¹ Laudonniere, p. 178.

demolishing the house and fort, and that he made show of doing so.

² Le Moyne, *Brevis Narratio*, p. 22.

Laudonniere (p. 178), says the Indians asked him to prevent his soldiers'

³ Laudonniere, p. 181; *Histoire Merveilleuse*, p. 258.