

would have perished had it not made the port of Havre de Grace, and there shielded itself from the storm.¹ It sailed thence the 14th of June; but a second storm forced it to put in at Portsmouth.² It then lost over two months in reaching Florida; and Mr. de Ribaut amused himself, for another two months and more, in different places along the coast before entering May River. Perhaps he wished to make sure of the Indians of those parts, in case he met with any resistance from the commandant of Caroline. Be that as it may, Ribaut had no sooner informed Laudonniere of the suspicions of the court, than he was convinced by the latter's replies, and the testimony of the principal officers, that the king and the admiral had been imposed upon. He accordingly omitted no inducement to persuade Laudonniere to remain with him in Florida, even offering him command of Caroline, he himself settling elsewhere; but he found Laudonniere firmly resolved to return to France to defend his conduct, and he pressed the matter no further. He gave him a letter from Coligni, in which that nobleman, without alluding to the accusations against him, invited him to come and lay before the king and council the means best adapted, in his judgment, to place the new colony on a solid basis.³

1565.
Laudonniere wishes to return to France.

Meanwhile, at the first report among the Indians of the arrival of the French fleet, they came in great numbers to Caroline. Some of them recognized Ribaut by his beard, which he always wore very long. They testified their joy at his return, and made him many presents; among the rest, a large piece of ore, which proved to be fine gold. They added that, if he desired, they would take him to some mountains where this metal abounded. Ribaut was resolved, once for all, to test the truth on this important point; but he soon had something to attend to very differ-

Ribaut's reception by the Indians, and their offers.

¹ Histoire Merveilleuse in Ternaux's Recueil, p. 255; De Gallorum Expeditione in Novæ Novi Orbis Historiæ (Geneva, 1578), p. 437.

² They sailed, June 14, from the Isle of Wight, and did not put back. See authorities in last note.

³ Laudonniere, pp. 183-4.