

1565.

ent from a visit to the mountains of Apalache. He had sounded the river, and found that there was not water enough for his four large vessels to enter ; he was obliged, therefore, to leave them at the roadstead, and land in boats the provisions needed in Caroline. After this, he proceeded to repair the fort ; and, as he set almost all his force to work, the operations advanced considerably in a few days.¹

A Spanish
squadron in
sight of the
French
fleet.
Sept. 4.

They were not yet completed when, on the 4th of September, about four o'clock in the afternoon, six Spanish ships anchored in the roadstead quite near the four French ships that had remained there.² This squadron was commanded by Don Pedro Menendez de Avilez, knight of Santiago, commander of Santa Cruz de la Zarza ; but to understand what followed we must trace matters back.

Who he
was.

This officer, whom the historians of his nation portray to us as one of the greatest men whom Spain has had in the New World, while at the court of Spain, involved in difficulties raised by his enemies, was greatly astonished to receive from the very lips of his royal master, Philip II., an order to sail to Florida, survey all the coasts accurately, and draw up an exact map, to be placed in the hands of all pilots thereafter proceeding to America, inasmuch as the frequent shipwrecks in the Bahama Channel and the neighboring coasts were caused solely by the scanty information which they had cared to acquire of the land.³

Occasion of
his voyage.

So unexpected an order gave heart to Menendez, who believed himself in disgrace. But the commission which the king gave him seemed to him too restricted ; and to enlarge it, he represented to his majesty that he knew nothing more important for his service than the conquest

¹ Laudonniere, p. 187 ; *Histoire Merveilleuse*, p. 265 ; *De Gallorum Expeditione*, p. 445. ¹⁸⁹), the 4th. Barcia does not state the day precisely.

² The *Histoire Merveilleuse* says, 3d September ; *De Galiorum Expeditione*, the 13th ; Laudonniere (p. 57-65. ³ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, para la *Historia General de la Florida*, pp.