

1565. might make with the vessels should belong to him ; that he should enjoy the perpetual hereditary title of Adelantado of Florida, with the same pre-eminence and prerogatives enjoyed by those of Castile, and two thousand ducats income, chargeable on the revenue of the province ; and that such son or son-in-law as he should appoint his successor, should enjoy the same privileges ; that he should have one-fifteenth of all that accrued to his majesty—revenues, mines, gold, silver, pearls, and fruits of the earth—in all his conquests.¹ Finally, on the 22d of March, in that year, the king delivered to him a commission as captain-general of the fleet intended for Florida.

While this was in hand, news for the first time reached Spain that the French Huguenots had for three years been settled in Florida, had built forts there, and were on the point of sending them a heavy re-enforcement of men, provisions, and munitions. The adelantado had gone on a tour through Biscay and Asturias, his native place, to induce his relatives and friends to advance him the money and securities necessary for the expenses of his undertaking. He was summoned to court, and repaired there with all diligence, leaving his affairs in the hands of Stephen de las Alas, and appointing Peter Menendez Marquez, his nephew, admiral of the fleet, with orders to sail forthwith to the Canaries and await him there.²

The re-enforcements preparing in France for Florida known in Madrid. Course adopted.

On arriving at court, he heard the intelligence just received from France ; and the king told him that, as he would require additional force to expel the heretics from Florida, it was unjust that this increased expense should fall on him ; that he would accordingly issue orders, so that he should find ready in the Indies two hundred horses, four hundred foot-soldiers, and three ships of his fleet, of which the pay for four months, with provisions, munitions, artillery, and all things needed, should be fur-

¹ See Patent as Adelantado, dated March 22, in Smith, Coleccion de Documentos, i., 13.

² Barcia, Ensayo Cronologico, p 67.