

nished by the royal treasury. Menendez having then represented to the king that these new directions would greatly delay his arrival in Florida, and that while he was engaged in making his preparations at Hispaniola and elsewhere, the French heretics would have all time to fortify their post, form alliances with the Floridians, and bring them under rule; that it seemed to him more advantageous for his majesty's service, that they should give him two galleys and two of the galliots which were under the command of Don Alvaro Bazan; that with this reinforcement he would sail with the first fair wind, and anticipate any re-enforcements from France; that he would enter the nearest port to that occupied by the French, fortify himself there, win the neighboring caciques, so that when his cavalry arrived in the spring he would be in a position to take the field, and attack the enemy to advantage or force him to leave the country.<sup>1</sup>

His project was approved; but, as the Turks were then threatening Malta, the Spanish monarch did not deem it advisable to weaken his naval power, and he gave orders to supply otherwise what the captain-general required. His orders, although positive, were not, however, fully executed. Menendez experienced at the hands of the officers of the Council of the Indies much vexatious opposition, and was not able to sail till the 29th of June. His fleet was composed of the galleon *San Pelayo*, of nine hundred and ninety-six tons, and of ten ships, the force of which amounted to nine hundred and ninety-five men, including soldiers and sailors, four secular priests, one hundred and seventeen officers and mechanics, and a large supply of artillery, a part of which was intended for the forts to be erected in Florida. All this was at the expense of the *adelantado*, except two hundred and ninety-nine soldiers, ninety-five sailors, and the chief pilot. The king furnished the *San Pelayo*.<sup>2</sup>

Menendez  
sails. His  
force.

<sup>1</sup> Barcia, *Ensayo Cronolog.*, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, p. 68.