

1565.

This fleet left the port of Cadiz on the 29th of June, but a violent storm soon drove it back, to the chagrin of the captain-general, who based his hopes of success in his expedition on his celerity; but he was somewhat consoled by a re-enforcement of men, which this delay brought in; so that, on reaching the Canaries, his force consisted of one thousand five hundred and four persons, among whom were several gentlemen of the best families of Biscay, Galicia, and Asturias. Two days after his departure from Cadiz, Captain Luna arrived there with ninety men, and embarked on a caravel, which was furnished to him all equipped. On the other hand, Stephen de las Alas, Menendez' lieutenant, embarked in the ports of Aviles and Gijon two hundred and fifty-seven sailors and soldiers in three vessels, under the command of Admiral Peter Menendez Marquez, who was also appointed the king's treasurer-general in Florida.

In fine, as they had given this expedition all the air of a holy war undertaken against the heretics, in concert with the king of France, who was said to disavow the settlement of his subjects of the pretendedly reformed religion in Florida, so many offered to take part in this species of crusade that all the forces of the captain-general united amounted to two thousand six hundred men, among whom were twelve Franciscans, eleven priests, and one lay brother, a religious of La Merced, five ecclesiastics, and eight Jesuits. So that, with what Menendez had received from the king, he found that he had expended in less than fourteen months a million of ducats of his own.

His fleet
dispersed.

He did not stop at the Canaries, but he had scarcely set sail when a storm scattered his fleet. The flag-ship and a patache disappeared, a large sloop was forced to put back because it leaked at every seam, the ships under Stephen de las Alas had taken another course, and there remained with the captain-general only five, which a second storm, that occurred on the 20th of July, forced to throw a part of their cargo into the sea. On the 9th of August, Menen-