and in this uncertainty, they did nothing for four days but tack on and off shore. On the fifth day the adelantado perceived some Indians on the shore, and sent his maestro del campo, with twenty arquebusiers, to converse with them. As soon as these savages saw the boats approach, they prepared to oppose their landing; then gradually fell back, keeping their bows bent. Valdez durst not pursue them, for fear of ambuscade; but as he was unwilling to return without some tidings of the French, he called one of his men, who had deserved death, and been reserved for use on such occasions, and ordered him to lay down his arms, take some goods, and follow the Indians,—promising him pardon if he got from these Indians any light on the point they wished.

He gets tid-
ings of the
French.
The soldier discharged his task perfectly, and learned that the French were twenty leagues off to the northward. He even induced some Indians to follow him to the spot where the maestro del campo had halted, and they were well received. They asked him where the general was, and Valdez replied that he had remained on board, inviting them to go off and meet him; but they declined, adding, that if he would land and rest among them, he would have no grounds to repent of it. On this reply, Valdez showed his friendship towards them, and re-embarked. The captain-general, on his report, did not hesitate to land; and taking fifty arquebusiers, started with them in boats. The Indians no sooner saw him approach the shore, than they threw down their arms and advanced, singing and raising their hands to heaven. Menendez caressed them much, and distributed among them small presents, which they received with gratitude, and gave them a meal; but he could elicit nothing more than what they had informed the maestro del campo.

He accordingly returned to his ship, set sail, and after making about eight leagues, on the 28th of August, found himself at the mouth of Dolphin River. It seemed to him very beautiful, and he named it St. Augustine, the festival