

1565. courage and prudence. All sail was instantly spread; and the squadron was only three leagues from the French ships, when a perfect calm, followed by rain and thunder, prevented the advance of the Spaniards. About nine o'clock in the evening the sky cleared, and a favorable wind sprang up; but the adelantado reflected, that with all his exertion, it would be night before he could reach the French, who, in case they were too weak to fight, would perhaps grapple, so as to burn the Spanish ships, even at the loss of their own, and escape to the shore in their boats. He had, moreover, remarked, that every morning till noon the tide was low on the coast and at the mouth of the rivers, which all have bars; and on this observation he resolved to move as near the enemy as possible, then to ride at anchor, in order to be in their midst at daybreak, when they would not be able to manœuvre or receive aid from the vessels already at anchor off Caroline.

This plan adopted, and orders given in consequence, the adelantado advanced under easy sail, till about half-past eleven: he then cast anchor, and run out his cable, so that he was soon athwart the French flag-ship.¹ Our historians say that he asked after Mr. de Ribaut and his chief officers, naming them all; that he then declared that his arrival in that harbor should not disquiet the French,² and that he had, indeed, no design to stop; that in fact he got under way at daybreak, but instead of standing off, he bore straight down on the French ships, which had barely time to cut their cables and sail off with all speed.³

A Spanish author, Don André Gonzalez de Barcia, the

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico, para la Historia de la Florida*, p. 75. Mendoza says two hours after sunset (p. 198), Challeux, nine o'clock.

² Laudonniere so states in p. 189; but the statement is not sustained by the *Histoire Merveilleuse* (p. 266) or *De Gallorum Expeditione* (p. 445),

which say that the Spaniards declared that they were enemies, and that war was sufficiently declared.

³ Laudonniere says the Spaniards fired on them at daybreak, and that the French then sailed off; but the other two accounts are silent as to the firing.