

only one to my knowledge who has given any details on this expedition, avers, on the contrary, that the French, seeing the Spanish ships approach in the darkness of night, kept up a constant but ineffectual fire on them; that Menendez did not fire a single gun, and kept all his men flat on the decks; that at daybreak,¹ "his ship having got between the two largest of the French, he sounded his trumpet as if to salute the French flag-ship, which returned his hail. He then appeared and asked whence the ships came, and what they were doing in Florida. The reply was, that they were French, come to bring men and supplies for a fort which the Most Christian king had on May River, and for some others that they intended to build in the country; that Menendez then asked whether they were Catholics or Lutherans,² to which they replied that they were Lutherans, and in turn asked the speaker who he was, and what his intentions were. To which he replied: "I am Pedro Menendez, general of this fleet of the Catholic king, Philip II. I have come to this country to hang and kill all the Lutherans I find in it, or meet at sea, according to the orders which I have received from the king my master; and these orders are so formal, that I am not at liberty to spare any one. I shall accordingly fulfil them to the letter; but when I have taken your ships, if I find any Catholics I shall treat them kindly: as for the heretics, all shall die."³

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At these words, continues the Spanish author, the adelantado was interrupted by shouts, with atrocious and indecent insults to him and the Catholic king. Roused to anger, he ordered his men to beat to quarters, slipped his cable, and gave orders to board; but the cables getting foul of the anchors, the French had time to sail. The Spaniards gave chase, keeping up a cannonade, but too far off to reach.⁴ Then Menendez, despairing of being

He attacks the French ships, which then escape, and he retires to the St. Augustine.

¹ Barcia does not say so.

² Parkman, *Pioneers*, p. 100, n.,

³ The Spaniards style all Protestants, Lutherans.—*Charlevoix*. gives Menendez' own version.

⁴ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, pp.