

1565. able to overtake them, about ten o'clock in the morning sailed back to May River, intending to enter it. He soon changed his mind, for seeing five ships at anchor, and two battalions drawn up in good order on the point of the bar, which fired on his vessels when they appeared, he feared that if he persisted in forcing a passage, the other French ships might return and take him between two fires. He therefore deemed it more advisable to return to the St. Augustine River.¹

Council of war held at Caroline, and its resolve.

The four French ships, which had not lost sight of Menendez, seeing him sail off, at once veered and regained their former anchorage, head winds preventing their nearer approach to May River. As soon as they were moored, Cosset, their commander, wrote to Mr. de Ribaut, to inform him of all that occurred, and on this information the French commander called a council of war. All concurred that they must work incessantly to fortify Caroline, and send a large detachment by land to Dolphin River, to fall on the Spaniards before they had time to intrench.²

Ribaut proposes another.

Mr. de Ribaut, after hearing all, drew from his pocket a letter which he had received from Admiral Coligni a few days before his departure from France, by which that

75, 76. Mendoza says nothing of the French firing on the Spanish ships. He speaks of the perfect silence preserved for two hours, when Menendez hailed; and on the answer, "France," he rejoined: "What are you doing in the territories of King Philip? Go; for I do not see what you are doing or wish to do here." The French then asked the name of the Spanish commander, which he gave, and asked theirs. A boat then came on board from the French vessel; and after refusing to surrender in a very impolite manner, the French cut their cables and stood off (pp. 198, 199).

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p.

76. Mendoza says the Spanish ships got scattered on the 5th, and three of the small vessels anchored near shore; and at night the French flag-ship came and anchored a league off. They were about to attack it on the 6th, when the second of the French flag-ship appeared; on which they bore down on her, and so made their way to St. Augustine (pp. 202, 203). Neither Mendoza, nor Laudonniere, nor the *Histoire Merveilleuse*, nor the Latin account mention the firing from the land.

² Le Moyne de Morgues, p. 23; Laudonniere in Basanier, p. 191; *De Gallorum Expeditione*, p. 446; *Histoire Memorabile*, p. 267.