

nobleman informed him that a Spanish officer, named Don Pedro Menendez, was prepared to go and attack New France, and expressly enjoined Ribaut not to permit him to undertake any thing prejudicial to his majesty's rights. There was nothing in this to oblige him to disregard the advice just unanimously given; yet he concluded that it was his duty to go with his four large ships to attack the three Spanish vessels, which Cosset represented as still at sea, saying that when he had them in his power, it would be easy for him to do as he liked with the rest.

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Mr. de Laudonniere, and a captain named la Grange, who enjoyed the admiral's confidence, easily refuted this argument; and the former added that the coast was subject to storms, which sometimes lasted several days; and that if, unfortunately, one came on while almost all the forces of the colony were at sea, there was nothing to prevent the Spaniards, who were at Dolphin River, coming and taking Caroline. They spoke in vain; Ribaut persisted in his design, although no one approved it: he even obliged Laudonniere, whom he left in command of Caroline, to give him all his garrison, and almost all his supplies.¹ La Grange did not wish to embark, and for two days declined, but was at last induced.²

His obstinate adherence to this plan against them all.

There remained in the fort with Mr. de Laudonniere, who was sick, only the *Sieur du Lys*, engineer, two gentlemen, *la Vigne* and *St. Cler*, and fifty persons; others say eighty-five, while others again swell the number to two hundred and forty; but all agree that there were not twenty in a state to fire a musket,—the rest were soldiers who had been wounded in the expedition against *Outina*, old mechanics, sutlers, women, and children.³ On the

He embarks in search of the Spaniards.

¹ Laudonniere in *Basanier*, *Histoire Notable*, pp. 192, 193; *Le Moyne de Morgues* in *de Bry*, p. 23. It would seem, however, that he proposed his plan first, and showed *Coligni's* letter to Laudonniere subsequently.

² Laudonniere, pp. 193, 194.

³ Laudonniere's detailed account makes at most one hundred and twenty-three, besides the sick (pp. 196, 197). This does not apparently include himself and the gentlemen—say four more. In the *De Gallorum*