

1565. them off, would not permit them to take refuge in their own port, and that, according to all appearances, they could not make it for some days. Moreover, they are heretics; and we knew, before leaving Spain, that their general, Ribaut, had forbidden any Catholic, under pain of death, to embark with him.¹ They have themselves assured us that they are all Lutherans. We are therefore obliged to make war on them to the utmost, not only because we have express orders, but also because they are determined on their side to show us no quarter, to prevent our planting the Catholic faith in a country where they wish to make their abominable sect prevail. Hence, we owe it equally to God and to the king our master, to perish rather than not complete what we have just so happily begun with the visible help of Heaven."

His plan to
attack Caro-
line.

He then explained to them his project, which consisted in choosing five hundred soldiers, arquebusiers and pikemen, to make them take eight days' rations, to divide them into ten companies, each with its captain and flag, to march with them on Caroline, and to go himself two leagues ahead of them with a compass, a Frenchman who had fallen into his hands,² and some soldiers with axes to open a path through the woods. He added, that if happily he arrived before being discovered, he would at once order an escalade; that he would carry ladders to effect this, and that he calculated that it would not cost him fifty soldiers to take the place; that if, unfortunately, he was seen before getting out of the woods, he would intrench himself as near the fort as possible; that he would thence summon the commandant, offering to furnish him a boat and provisions to return to France; that this commander, perhaps, overrating his strength, would accept his offers; that, at all events, the French would not dare to come and

¹ We shall see, later, that this was not true.—*Charlevoix*. calls this man Francis John, and says that he was one of those who

² Laudonniere in Basanier (p. 198) stole the barks.