

attack him in a strong position; and that in the spring, 1565. when he received the expected aid from Hispaniola, he would be in a condition to reduce the French by force.

This speech did not elicit universal applause. There were even great disputes among the officers; but the majority siding with the captain-general, his plan was adopted. Menendez immediately made all preparations to carry it out. He ordered that all should hear Mass on the third day before taking up the line of march; that meanwhile the maestro-de-campo and the sergeant-major should select the five hundred men who were to compose the detachment, and take care to furnish them with every thing necessary; and as they were working on a fort—which has become a celebrated town, under the name of St. Augustine—he placed there, as commandant, his brother, Bartholomew Menendez, and gave his admiral command of the artillery which he left, as well as of the three ships which he had retained.¹

All being thus arranged, the council broke up; but information of the projected movement spreading among the troops, excited great murmurs. It was still worse the next day: the sedition increased to that degree, that Captains John de San Vicente, Francis Recalde, and Diego de Maya, thought themselves justified in entreating the adelantado to forego his project. His only reply was to invite all the captains and several gentlemen to dine, and after treating them splendidly, he evinced displeasure at the fact that the secrecy of a council of war had been betrayed; he added that it was perhaps his duty to punish those guilty of such a breach of discipline, but that he would pardon them; he was, however, glad to let them know that, for the future, the slightest faults should be severely punished; that the discouragement manifest among the soldiers came solely from their officers; all, however, had not lost heart, and he saw with pleasure

Mutiny
among the
troops.
Resolution
of Menen-
dez.

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 78.