

1565. most preparing with alacrity to march at the first signal, because their captains set the example; that each one, nevertheless, was still at liberty to make any representations to him; that he was ready to change his opinions if any one showed him that it was for the best, but that a final resolution once taken, if any one was bold enough to speak before it was time to act, he would break him on the spot. All replied that nothing ought to be changed in the plan adopted; and those even who still continued to disapprove it, promised to do their duty.<sup>1</sup>

Seditious  
conduct of a  
captain.

The day having come, they were on the point of marching, when John de San Vicente declared that he was unwell, and that he would not go. As his friends sought to persuade him that this conduct would give him trouble, he replied that he expected to hear in a few days that the whole party had been slaughtered by the French, and that then it was his intention to embark with all who survived at St. Augustine, and make for the West Indies. "Is there any sense," he added, "in going to be slaughtered like cattle, by following so ill-conceived a project?"<sup>2</sup>

The adelantado pretended not to be informed of this speech, and put himself at the head of his van, with Martin de Ochoa, attended by twenty Biscayans and Asturians, who had been supplied with axes to clear the way. The rest of the troops followed, under the orders of the maestro-de-campo and sergeant-major. On the fourth day of the march they came within half a league of Caroline; and although there was a high wind, and the rain was pouring in torrents, Menendez pushed on a quarter of a league further, and halted in an extremely marshy spot, behind a pine wood which covered him. He then returned to his command, to serve them as guide, for fear they should lose their way.

At ten o'clock at night the whole army was assembled, but extremely fatigued and drenched with rain, which had

<sup>1</sup> Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 78, 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, pp. 78, 79.