

1565. trades in arms. "Let us know, then," said one of them, "what you think, and we will then give you our opinion."

He advises an attack on Caroline. "I believe, my friends," resumed Menendez, "that as we are here at the gates of Caroline, we should try our chance.

If we cannot take the place, we will at least be in no fear that our enemies, who according to all appearances are few in number, will venture into the woods to pursue us, and our retreat will be perfectly safe: perhaps even, when they see us in line ready to attack, they will surrender, without awaiting an assault that they cannot sustain. If not, there is nothing then to prevent our adopting the course proposed, and we shall at least have the consolation of having done all that was possible."

His advice adopted. He prepares to attack. The maestro-de-campo, the sergeant-major, and most of the captains, scarcely gave him time to finish, and conjured him to lead them against the enemy. Some at first wished to object, but they were soon gained. The adelantado, in the fulness of his joy, at once made all kneel to implore the help of the God of Hosts; then he ranged the companies in the order which they were to retain in the attack. He put himself at their head, with his French fugitive or prisoner,—for accounts differ on the point, but we know positively that the man had his hands tied behind his back. But as the night was very dark, and the wind and rain did not slacken, those in advance lost their way. This obliged the adelantado to halt, and wait for daylight, in a place where he was up to his knees in water.¹

Condition of the fort. Meanwhile, Mr. de Laudonniere, equally alarmed as to Ribaut's fate, on account of the storm, which he had, unfortunately, but too clearly foreseen, and which still lasted, and also because, with all the efforts he had made to put Caroline in a state of defence, three great breaches still remained, did not suppose the enemy so near him. It even happened that the fearful weather that night,

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, pp. 79, 80.