

1565. the three vessels at the water-line. The crew, unable to remedy it, except by exposing them to the enemy's fire, took to the boats, passing to the other two ships, which cut their cables, and anchored out of reach of the cannon.<sup>1</sup>

What befell  
Mr. de Laudon-  
niere  
after the  
capture of  
the fort.

The French memoirs give a different version; but we must go back somewhat in our narrative, which being from Mr. de Laudonniere himself, seems certain. This commander having escaped in the manner that we have seen, found about a dozen of his people in the wood. He proposed to approach the river, and reach the vessels just mentioned; but some preferred to trust to the Indians, and left him. He set out with the rest, and they walked all night, in water almost to their waists. Towards sunset they lost their way and were forced to stop, being too fatigued to swim. Still, two of the most vigorous resolved to risk it, so as to give the ships tidings, and bring them boats.

In fact, the next morning early the boats appeared. It was time for them to come. Mr. de Laudonniere was dying, and most of the rest were hardly any better off: they were brought to with brandy, which their deliverers had had the precaution to bring; and as soon as the commandant had somewhat regained his strength, he wished, before embarking, to make a tour through the wood,<sup>2</sup> to see whether he could find any of his people who had lost their way. Those who had left him at first had almost all joined him; many others had also reached the bank of the river by various routes, and he had the consolation of saving about twenty.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, pp. 81, 82. The French account, *Histoire Memorable*, says (p. 278) that the Spanish fire did no injury. As they scuttled a vessel soon after, the Spaniards naturally put the sinking to their own credit.

<sup>2</sup> He did not, and could not, make

any turn in the woods: he merely got the boat to run along the canelake before rowing off to the ship. Laudonniere, pp. 200, 201.

<sup>3</sup> Laudonniere, pp. 200, 201. Challeux, in the *Histoire Memorable*, p. 28, says that twenty-six were taken off with Laudonniere to Maillard's