

1565. and Francis de Castañeda, the captain of his guards,—commanding Medrano, Patiño, and Alvarado to follow him as soon as possible, and the other officers not to leave the fort without his order.

He is received there in triumph.

As the rains still continued, and the whole country was inundated, it is inconceivable how much he suffered on this march; but he was borne up by his exultation at the success of his enterprise. He at last reached St. Augustine, where he had been deplored as dead, inasmuch as the deserters, to cloak the baseness of their conduct, had announced that he had perished, with all his force. Two soldiers, who had pushed on in advance, having declared the contrary and announced his speedy return, all, in a moment, passed from the most extreme consternation to excess of joy. All went to meet the conqueror of the heretics, with cross and clergy, singing the *Te Deum*; and thus was he received in triumph.¹

Fire at San Matheo. The San Pelayo captured by the French.

His first care was to send provisions to San Matheo, which was in greater need than he was aware of,—a fire, supposed not to be the effect of mere chance, having reduced almost all the buildings to ashes. He also learned soon after that the garrison of that place had mutinied against its officers. These were not the only misfortunes to dampen the joy of the adelantado. He had put several Frenchmen, who had fallen into his hands on his arrival in Florida, on board the galleon San Pelayo; and his orders were, that after they were landed in St. Domingo, they should be sent to the Inquisition in Spain: but they were scarcely out at sea, when, with the help of some foreigners and a few sailors whom they gained, they dispatched the officers, made sure of the crew, and carried the galleon into Denmark.²

Mr. de Ribaut's squadron, of which there were as yet no tidings, also gave the Spanish general some uneasiness,

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*. p. 82, 3; Mendoza, *Memoir*, p. 223.

² Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 84.