

1565. to send Nicholas Verdier, captain of one of his ships, and Sergeant la Caille, to learn from the Spanish commander Negotiation what treatment they might expect. These two men, having reached the bank of the river opposite to the fortress, and surrender. made a signal, which was no sooner perceived than a boat was sent. They were then taken to the commander, of whom they asked what had become of Mr. de Laudonniere and his garrison. The commandant replied, that after the capture of Caroline, they had given them a ship well equipped, in which they had sailed for France; and that if Mr. de Ribaut would surrender at discretion, he would experience the same effects of his generosity.¹

This reply, which the two envoys deemed sincere, reassured them; and they hastened back to inform their general. Opinions were, nevertheless, divided among the French: some maintaining that they should distrust men who were known to hold it as a principle that it was doing a work pleasing to God to exterminate those who did not profess the Roman religion; and others saying that a speedy death was better than the deplorable condition in which they were. Ribaut concurred with the latter, and drew all to his view. La Caille was sent back to San Matheo, and asked only what the commandant of the fort had himself offered—namely, that all should have liberty to proceed to France, and that a vessel should be furnished with all its rigging and necessary provisions. The commandant renewed his promise, and swore to its execution by all that he held sacred.²

After such formal assurances, there was no one among the French who at all hesitated to surrender himself into the hands of the Spaniards. The latter sent boats; but scarcely had they crossed the river when they saw that they were deceived. As they left the boats, they were tied

¹ Le Moyne de Morgues, p. 28. The Histoire Memorable (p. 296) is very brief.

² Le Moyne de Morgues, p. 29. He says a written pledge was given, but it is utterly improbable.