

in fours. Messieurs de Ribaut and d'Ottigny were led alone to the parade of the fort, where, on asking to speak to the commandant, to learn from him why they were treated so at variance with the promise made them, they were informed that the commandant was not to be seen.

1565.
Slaughter of
Ribaut's
party.

A moment after, a private soldier came up to Mr. de Ribaut, and asked him whether he was not the general of the French. He replied that he was. "Have you not always established," rejoined the soldier, "that those under your orders should obey you punctually?" "Undoubtedly," replied Ribaut, who could not see the drift of all this. "Then do not find it strange," replied the soldier, "that I, too, fulfil an order given by my commandant;" and with these words he drove a dagger into his heart. Another soldier subjected d'Ottigny to the same questions and treatment, that officer calling God to witness the perfidy of the Spaniards.

This first execution was a signal for the garrison, who in an instant rushed on the Frenchmen and butchered them all in a moment.¹ According to a document which on this point seems above suspicion, eight hundred Frenchmen perished by the hands of the Spaniards; but to all appearance we must include in this number all who were killed when Caroline was taken. It is certain, moreover, that Menendez reserved several mechanics and other tradesmen for the works which he designed at San Matheo and St. Augustine.

Some have written that Mr. de Ribaut was flayed alive, and that his skin was sent to Spain;² but I do not find this supported by sufficient authority. A very curious document,³ presented the next year to King Charles IX., under the title of "Supplication of the widows and chil-

¹ Le Moyne de Morgues, p. 29. The *Histoire Memorable* says Ribaut and Ottigny were killed last (p. 299).

² This statement and that of the hanging do not appear in the early

accounts, but are both in *La Reprinse de la Floride*.

³ Evidently the *Supplex Libellus* addressed to Charles IX. Benzoni, *Novæ Novi Orbis Hist.*, p. 473.