

Spaniards or be given up. Astounded at this announcement, and not knowing what to do, he fled ; and after long wanderings at random, found himself two leagues from San Matheo. Then he was seized with redoubled fear, which put him beside himself ; and unable to bring himself to surrender into the hands of his executioners, he resolved to stay where he was, and die of starvation.

He had already gone four or five days without food, and scarcely retained the human figure, when he was found by a Spaniard hunting. The latter was seized with horror at the sight of this wretch, who implored his life with clasped hands. He promised to use all his influence with the governor to obtain his pardon, and he did not take him to the fort till he had obtained it. The sailor was then put with the slaves, and remained in the fort a whole year in that condition. At the end of that time he was sent to Havana, where he was put with a French gentleman named Pompierre, who had been a prisoner in that port since the unfortunate expedition of the mutineers of Caroline, which he had been forced to join. They were chained together, and sold to some Portuguese going to Brazil. Fortunately the vessel bearing them was taken by Bontems, a French captain, and they thus recovered their liberty at a time when they had every reason to believe that their slavery would end only with life.¹

I have said that this account is the source to which all have resorted who have written on the tragical catastrophe of the French in Florida ;² but there is so great a diversity of circumstances in the narrative they give, that it is by no means easy to unravel the exact truth. All, however, agree sufficiently on the most essential points, and especially on the pledge given under oath to Mr. de Ribaut, to furnish him a vessel to carry him and his party to France. Mr. de Thou³ states, in addition, that Menendez treated the

¹ Le Moyne de Morgues, pp. 29, 30. ² De Thou, *Histoire Universelle*, 1.

² Le Breton's account was the first. xliv., vol. v., p. 500.