

from St. Jean de Luz swam over, and told him that all whom he saw were Frenchmen, who had been wrecked. Menendez asked him whence they came, and he answered that they were the people of Mr. de Ribaut, captain-general of Florida for the king of France. The adelantado asked whether they were Catholics, and he answered, "No." "You can tell your general," replied the adelantado, "that I am Peter Menendez, viceroy and captain-general of Florida for the Catholic king Philip II.; that I have come with soldiers, as I knew that you were there."

1565.

Ribaut's
advanced
party.

The Frenchman returned with this answer, and soon after came back to ask the Spanish general for a safe conduct for his commander and four gentlemen who wished to treat with him, if he would send them a boat. One had just arrived from St. Augustine with provisions. Menendez replied that he granted it, and that the commander could come on his word. An officer and some soldiers were sent, who were well received. The adelantado had near him only ten men; the rest of his detachment was a little further off, behind some bushes, so arranged as to appear much greater in number than it was. The officer, on meeting the general, told him that they had been wrecked in the late storm; that they had lost four vessels and all their boats; that he begged him to lend them his boat to cross a bay and an arm of the sea four leagues off, so as to reach a fort which the king their master had at a distance of twenty leagues thence.

The adelantado asked him whether they were Catholics, and the officer replied that they belonged to the reformed religion. Then he said: "Sir, I have taken your fort, and put the garrison to the sword; but I have spared the women, and the children under fifteen years; and to remove all doubts, two of your countrymen, whom I spared because they declared themselves to be Catholics, are here among my soldiers. Rest here, I will bring you something to eat, you shall see your two countrymen, and part of the booty taken by my men at Caroline." He had