

1565.

Negotia-
tion.

de Ribaut, with the rest of his army, he took one hundred and fifty soldiers, and by night ranged them in good order on the bank of the river. At daybreak he perceived the French at some distance from the opposite bank; and, at the water's edge, a kind of raft which they had constructed to cross the bay. The French, on their side, no sooner discovered him, than they sounded an alarm, displayed the royal standard and two ensigns, and drew up in line of battle to the sound of drum and fife.

At this sight the adelantado ordered his soldiers to sit down, breakfast, and show no sign of concern. As for himself, he walked calmly on the bank with his admiral and two other officers, as though there was no one on the other side. Then the French stopped their fife and drum, sounded a trumpet, and raised a white flag in token of peace. The Spaniards did the same, and a Frenchman immediately advanced on the raft, and asked the Spaniards to send them some one. The adelantado replied that as they had a raft, it was their part to come across if they wanted any thing. The Frenchman replied that the current was too strong to risk crossing on a raft; but that if he would send over a periagua, that was on the bank, some one would go to speak with him.¹

Menendez replied that he should swim over and come on his word. A sailor did so, and the adelantado, without hearkening to him, told him to take the periagua, and go tell his commandant from him, that if he wished any thing he should send to ask it. The sailor soon after returned with a gentleman, who told Menendez that he was sergeant-major of Mr. de Ribaut, viceroy and captain-general of Florida for the king of France; that the last storm had wrecked his vessels; that he had with him three hundred and fifty Frenchmen, with whom he desired to proceed to a fort which he had twenty leagues off; that he begged him to lend them boats to cross that river, and another

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 88.