

four leagues further on; and that he desired to know with whom he was treating.¹ 1565.

The adelantado made him the same reply that he did to the first Frenchmen, adding that he had already punished with death another party escaping from the same shipwreck, because it had acted badly. He even led him to where the bodies of the unfortunate men still lay, and added that he had no boats to lend them. The officer, without evincing the least emotion, asked him whether he would not have the kindness to send one of his gentlemen, or cross the river himself, to declare his intentions to the French general. "Brother," replied the adelantado, "take my answer to your commandant, and tell him, that if he wishes to confer with me, he may come to meet me with four or six of his men, to deliberate on the course most expedient to adopt, and I give him all security for this purpose."

Reply of
Menendez.

The gentleman set out with this answer, and returned in half an hour, assuring the adelantado that Mr. de Ribaut was disposed to meet him on his word; that he begged him to send his boat. This Menendez refused, saying that the French general could cross in the periagua without any risk. Mr. de Ribaut was therefore forced to embark in the periagua, with eight gentlemen. He was well received by the adelantado, who at once had a collation served up to them. He then showed him the dead bodies of his men. He repeated to him all that he had informed him by message of the capture of Caroline, and perceiving that Ribaut was not convinced, made two Frenchmen come, who had witnessed every thing, and who assured their general that the statement was true.²

Then Mr. de Ribaut told the Spanish general that the events of life were so varied, that all that had just befallen the French might well one day befall himself: that their kings were friends and brothers, and that in the name of

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronolog.*, p. 88.

² *Ib.*, p. 88.

³ *Ib.* p. 88.