1565. that alliance he conjured him to furnish him a vessel and provisions to return to France. But he could draw from him no answer but that given to the first party. On this, he said that he would go and deliberate with his council, because, having many gentlemen with him, he could not resolve on any course without their participation. Menendez approved this conduct. Ribaut again crossed the river, and in less than three hours returned.[1]

Ribaut's attempt to obtain terms. He told the adelantado that a part of his force consented to surrender at discretion, but not the majority. Menendez replied that they were free to do as they chose, the thing being indifferent to him. Mr. de Ribaut replied that those who surrendered to him offered more than one hundred thousand ducats for their ransom ; that the others would give still more, because some of them were very rich, and that they were even not disinclined to stay in the country, if they were permitted to do so. " I would much need the aid," replied Menendez, " to carry out the orders which I have received from the king my master, which are to conquer and settle Florida and establish the gospel there : I greatly regret that I cannot avail myself of it."[2]

This answer made Mr. de Ribaut believe that the Spanish general would at last be tempted ; he told him that if he would grant him till next day, he would go again and deliberate with his troop, and bring a final answer. He obtained his request, returned the next day, and began by presenting to the adelantado two standards—one of the king of France, and the other of Admiral Coligni ; the colors of the companies, a sword, a dagger, a gold helmet, very finely wrought, a buckler, a pistol, and a seal, which Admiral Coligni had given him to seal in his name the documents he might have to issue. He added, that of three hundred and fifty men with him, two hundred had retired during the night, and that the others, with himself,

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[1] Barcia, Ensayo Cronolog., p. 88.   [2] Ib., p. 89.