

asperated by a long and harsh captivity, animated by the hatred which his religion inspired him against the Catholics, would not have been deemed in a court of justice a competent witness to condemn a private individual; and it is surprising that no one at the time thought to question a fact of this nature, supported solely by testimony open to such just suspicion.

After all, the fact as the Spaniards themselves relate it was more than sufficient to arouse public indignation in France; nor was it, therefore, confined to those whose religious interest rendered them more sensible to the treatment inflicted on their fellow-believers in Florida. Nevertheless, the hatred entertained by the court against the Huguenots, and especially against Admiral Coligni, their leader, who was almost always in arms against his sovereign and against the religion of his ancestors, contributed greatly to the indifference which succeeded these first outbursts of humanity and patriotism. Hence, by a sad effect of the wretched condition in which France was, the king's subjects, who had just perished in Florida at the hands of the Spaniards, were regarded by most of those then in power, less as subjects, than as creatures of the most deadly enemy which religion and the prince then had. Moreover, the position of Charles IX. did not permit him to embroil himself with the Catholic king. The honor of the French would, therefore, have been unavenged, had not a private person undertaken to do it at his own risk and expense.

This zealous citizen was the Chevalier Dominic de Gourges, a Gascon gentlemen, born at Mont de Marsan, in the countship of Comminges, of a family distinguished at all times by an unshaken attachment to the ancient faith.<sup>1</sup> He himself never left it, although the last Spanish historian of Florida accuses him of having been a terrible

Indiffer-  
ence of the  
court as to  
the affairs  
in Florida.

The early  
adventures  
of the  
Chevalier  
de Gour-  
ges.

<sup>1</sup> He was brother to the President logico, p. 133; Parkman's *Pioneers*, of Guienne. Barcia, *Ensayo Crono-* p. 141.