

1565. heretic—*herege terrible*. There were, at the time, few subaltern officers in France, and perhaps in all Europe, who had acquired a more brilliant reputation in war, or who had experienced more reverses of fortune. He had served quite young in Italy, and one day, when commanding a detachment of thirty men near Sienna, in Tuscany, he for a long time withstood all the efforts of a part of the Spanish army: at last, all his men having been slain around him, he was taken, sent to the galleys, and put in chains like a criminal. The bitterness with which the Spaniards then made war on France, made them forget their ancient generosity to the point of thus violating the laws of war, and punishing with a degrading slavery actions which, at the bottom of their hearts, they could not fail to admire.

The galley on which the Chevalier de Gourgues was rowing, was taken by the Turks on the coast of Sicily, carried to Rhodes, and thence to Constantinople; but having put to sea again, it was retaken by the galleys of Malta, and de Gourgues thus recovered his liberty. Returning to France, he conceived the idea of travelling by sea; he went first to Africa, then to Brazil, and thence, says Lescarbot,¹ to the Pacific; but this author, undoubtedly, takes the Pacific for the Indian Ocean, as it is certain that in the sixteenth century no Frenchman had yet been in the Pacific.²

He prepares
to drive the
Spaniards
from Flor-
ida.

It is not stated how long the Chevalier de Gourgues spent in these voyages, nor what he did during them; but it is certain that he had only just arrived in France, with the name of being one of the ablest and boldest navigators of his age, when news was brought of the capture of Caroline by the Spaniards, and the massacre of the French. He was deeply moved, both for the honor of France, and

¹ Lescarbot, *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, p. 141. ²²² says he went towards the Pacific. De Thou (*Hist. Univ.*) treats

² Basanier (*Histoire Notable*, p. de Gourgues' voyage at length.