

the interest which, in his views, should be taken in such a fine country; moreover, he was burning with a desire to avenge his own wrongs. So many urgent motives made him form the design of chastising the usurpers of Florida, or dying in the attempt. 1567.

To enable him to execute so bold a design, which seemed beyond the power of a private individual, he sold all his property, made heavy loans, and equipped two roberges, and a patache in the form of a felucca. These three boats could go by oars in a calm, and were of very light draught, so that it was easy for them to enter most of the rivers of Florida. Eighty picked sailors formed their crew; but they carried one hundred and fifty soldiers and volunteers, one hundred of whom were crossbowmen, and most of them gentlemen. The expedition was fitted out at Bordeaux; and sailing thence, August 2, 1567, was detained for eight days in succession at Royan by head winds, then forced by a violent storm to put into the Charente, where it remained till the twenty-second.<sup>1</sup> He leaves France.

It had provisions for a year, and the Chevalier de Gourgues was provided with a commission from Mr. de Montluc, lieutenant for the king in Guyenne; but it was not for Florida. It gave him power only to go to the coast of Benin, in Africa, and carry off negroes; for he had not as yet disclosed the real object of his expedition to any one.<sup>2</sup> Scarcely was he out at sea when he was surprised by a second storm, in which one of his ships disappeared. He had provided for this accident, and had given all his pilots a rendezvous at the mouth of the Rio del Oro, on the coast of Africa, and his ship really met

<sup>1</sup> La Reprinsse de la Floride, par le Capitaine Gourgue, in Ternaux (pp. 301-10), says one hundred arquebusiers, and mentions crossbows as arms of the sailors. Basanier, p. 207, De Gourgues MS. A copy made by Viscomte de Gourgues, apparently from the manuscript referred to (post, p.

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229), is in the possession of Hon. Geo. Bancroft. It makes only one hundred soldiers in all. Champlain (Voyages, ed. 1632, p. 21) gives him two hundred and fifty men, and makes him sail August 23.

<sup>2</sup> De Gourgues MS.; La Reprinsse, p. 309; Basanier, Hist. Not., p. 207.