

1567. him there. Thence he ranged the coast to Cape Blanco, where three petty negro princes came to attack him, instigated by the Portuguese. After defeating them twice, he held on the same route to Cape Verde, whence he turned direct to America.

He reaches
the island
of Cuba.

The first land that he made was Dominica, one of the Little Antilles. He next went to Porto Rico; then to Mona, the cacique of which gave him many fresh supplies. After this, wishing to make the mainland of Florida, a new storm drove him into the port of St. Nicholas, on the west side of St. Domingo. Here he caulked one of his vessels, which the storm had greatly shattered, causing the loss of a good part of his supply of sea-biscuit. To crown his troubles, the Spaniards refused to sell him meal; and he had only just left the port of St. Nicholas, when a furious storm driving him on the coast, put him in imminent danger of perishing.¹ At last, with great ado, he made Cape San Antonio, the western extremity of Cuba.

There assembling all his men, he began by depicting to them, in the most vivid colors, the cruelties perpetrated by the Spaniards on the French in Florida. "This, comrades, is the crime of our enemies. And what will ours be, if we defer longer to avenge the insult offered to the French nation? This induced me to sell all my property: this opened the purses of my friends. I have counted upon you: I have deemed you sufficiently jealous of the glory of your country to sacrifice life itself on an occasion of this importance. Am I deceived? I hope to set you an example; to be ever at your head; to take on myself the greatest dangers. Will you refuse to follow me?"²

The opening of this address excited some astonishment in the minds of many; but at last, the soldiers taking it

¹ La Reprins de la Floride, p. 311-8. (Voyages, 1632, pp. 22, 23) gives it as a speech, though Charlevoix does not

² The authorities give the substance of the speech. Champlain seem to quote the speech from him verbally.