

1568. whom by menaces he drew an account and plan of the fort. Having examined it carefully, he was convinced that an escalade was the surest means of carrying it, and he resolved to attempt it. He spent Sunday and Monday in preparation;¹ and meanwhile so many Indians gathered, that as they filled all the ground around Caroline, it was impossible for the Spaniards to get out to reconnoitre the force of their assailants. One made the attempt, disguised as an Indian; but Olocotora detecting him, brought him to the general. This man declared that he was one of the garrison of the second² fort, and that he had disguised himself to escape more readily, expecting no quarter if he fell into the hands of the Indians; that it was his intention to throw himself into the hands of the French, believing his life secure when he was the prisoner of a nation renowned throughout the world for its humanity. Unfortunately for him, the sergeant already mentioned unwittingly betrayed him, declaring that he belonged to the garrison of San Matheo; on which he was placed with those reserved for punishment. It was ascertained from this spy, that what took all courage from the garrison of San Matheo was the conviction that the French were at least two thousand strong; and de Gourgues thought it unwise to give them time to learn their error or recover from their fright.³

He marches
on the fort.

He accordingly prepared with all diligence to begin the attack at daybreak on Tuesday. He sent the Sieur de Mesmes, his ensign, with twenty⁴ arquebusiers, to guard the mouth of the river; he sent the Indians to lie in ambush in the woods on both sides of the river; finally, he himself marched before dawn, taking the sergeant and the spy as guides. Olocotora was with him; and this Indian had taken it into his head that he would never return from this expedition, basing his presentiment ap-

¹ La Reprins de la Floride, p. 349. p. 250, says (he was of the) first fort.

² Basanier, Histoire Notable, p. ³ La Reprins, p. 350.

215. The La Reprins de la Floride, ⁴ Fifteen. La Reprins, p. 351.