

parently on a dream. He mentioned it to de Gourgues. 1568.
 "I know, captain," said he, "that I shall be killed in the attack on the fort; yet I will not leave you. I hold my life as nothing. I shall, at least, have the consolation of dying as a brave. But I beg you to give my wife my share of the booty, to put with my body in the tomb, that I may be better received in the spirit-land."

Mr. de Gourgues replied that he hoped to restore him, safe and sound, to his family; but that, alive or dead, his memory should be ever dear to him, and that he would show in every way how much he owed to his zeal and valor. They marched openly along the river; but as they were annoyed by the fire of two culverins, planted on a kind of bulwark commanding the bank, they sheltered themselves behind the hill, at the foot of which, as we have seen, the fort stood. The general thus had an opportunity to examine the place well; and with the help of his two prisoners, he ascertained to a certainty its strong and weak points. He saw, in a word, that he must attack from the hill-side, as the Spaniards did two years before.

It was somewhat late when every man got to his post, and the chevalier wished to defer the attack till morning; but the besieged having made a sortie with eighty¹ arquebusiers, hastened their ruin. Casenove was detached against them, with twenty cuirassiers, to draw them on; while the general cut off their retreat, and fell on them with a superior force. The Spaniards, who kept advancing, were much astonished to find themselves between two fires; yet they fought nobly, and were slain almost to a man. The garrison, witnessing this defeat, absolutely lost heart; and all, without awaiting orders, fled into the woods, where the Indians, who awaited them, gave quarter to none. Some turned in the other direction; but there they met Mr. de Gourgues, who brought down most of

Capture of
San Ma-
theo.

¹ La Reprinse de la Floride (p. 353) says, sixty. It was always sixty Spaniards that they had to fight in each of the three engagements.