

fact that reprisals are rarely exempt from injustice, inasmuch as they more generally fall on the innocent than on the guilty, I do not hesitate to say, that the expedition of the Chevalier de Gourgues, hitherto so glorious for himself and honorable for his nation, would have been infinitely exalted by so acting, that his moderation and French generosity formed a noble contrast to the inhumanity of the Spaniards, rather than by closing it with the same fury that he detested in them. Is it not shameful for Christians not to have thought as an idolatrous prince once did on a similar occasion?¹

Moreover, the applause bestowed everywhere on this gentleman, and which it was impossible to refuse to an achievement which may be reckoned among the most memorable of the kind ever accomplished in war, were all the fruits of victory left to him. He had not force enough to make good his hold in Florida against the Spaniards of St. Augustine. He could not expect to receive, at least for some years, any aid from France; and he was aware that the interested aid of the Indians would last only as long as he was in a condition to show them favors and protect them from the vengeance of a nation against whom they had just declared themselves so strongly. Yet he was apparently ignorant that the Spaniards were so near him; and I find that our writers of that time suppose that Dolphin River was not inhabited under the name of St. Augustine till some years later.

But the Chevalier de Gourgues had only what provisions he needed to return to France; and it was solely this last consideration that induced him to raze the three forts which he had just captured. He sent all the artillery of

Florida
evacuated
by the
French.

¹ After the defeat of Mardonius, one of the generals of Xerxes, some having proposed to Pausanias, king of Sparta, to treat the dead body of that satrap as Xerxes had treated Leonidas, killed at the battle of Thermopylæ, whom that prince had hung on a gibbet: "Little dost thou know glory," replied Pausanias, "if thou thinkest that I can acquire much by imitating barbarians."—*Charlevoix.*