

1719. this state in 1719, when Mr. de Serigny laid siege to it ; the Western Company having seized the opportunity of the rupture between the two crowns to obtain the only port there is in all the northern coast of Florida, from the Bahama Channel to the Micissipi. De Serigny began by convening a great council of war, the decision of which was, that Messrs. de Bienville and de Chateaugué, his brothers, should summon to Maubile all the Indian allies, all the French settlers, voyageurs and concessionaries, and lead them overland to Pensacola, while the three vessels,<sup>1</sup> after taking on board a hundred and fifty soldiers, should enter the bay. All this was carried out with great secrecy and diligence.

On the 14th of May, at ten o'clock in the morning, Mr. de Serigny entered the bay: Don Juan Pedro de Matamoros,<sup>2</sup> Governor of Fort San Carlos, who was not in a condition to resist, had just sent to Don Gregorio de Salinas, Governor of St. Joseph, to ask him for assistance; but he had no time to receive it. Serigny began by opening a brisk fire, and, although it lasted five hours, the Spaniards pretend to have had only one man killed.<sup>3</sup> The fire having ceased, the Governor sent an infantry captain to know from the French commandant, the cause of so unforeseen a hostility. De Serigny sent this officer back with a French captain, who informed Don Juan that war had been declared and published in France on the 14th of January, and summoned him to surrender the place. The Governor, by the advice of his council, asked till next day to answer, and he obtained the delay; but then reflecting that with the hundred and sixty men

<sup>1</sup> A Spanish author reckons four vessels. *Charlevoix*. Bienville sailed 9-12. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 148.

from Dauphin Island May 13, in a sloop with 80 men; Serigny in the Philippe; with the Comte de Toulouse, Capt. Mechin, and Maréchal de Villars, Capt. the Chev. de Grieu. Bienville to Minister, Oct. 20, 1719, in Gayarré, *Hist. de la Louisiane*, i., p. 168 Laval, *Voyage*, p. 103. Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., pp.

<sup>2</sup> Juan Pedro Matamoros, born at Granada; entered the army in 1696; distinguished himself at Tarifa, Ceuta and at Gibraltar, where he was wounded. He was appointed Governor of Pensacola Feb. 18, 1717. He was taken to France, and did not reach Spain till 1720. Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, 330, 363.

<sup>3</sup> Barcia, *Ensayo Cron.*, p. 349.