

Viceroy of Mexico, a light barque, to beg him to order Don Francisco Cornejo, commandant of the Barlovento Fleet, who was then at Vera Cruz, to proceed to join Carrasco-sa at Pensacola as soon as he heard of that commandant's arrival in Florida. The Viceroy had anticipated him: informed of the capture of Pensacola by the Governor of Saint Joseph, and warned by a Franciscan Father, who was in that place when it surrendered to de Serigny, that the French had undertaken its capture only with the view of penetrating to New Mexico, he had at once dispatched couriers to all the ports of New Spain, with orders to all vessels and mariners whom they met, to proceed to Vera Cruz. He had at the same time made a levy of men on all sides, and had no embarrassment except to find shipping enough to embark all this force, when Don Francisco Cornejo entered the port of Vera Cruz with five men-of-war of the Barlovento Fleet. The Viceroy ordered him to prepare to sail to Pensacola, but as Cornejo was on the point of starting, the Viceroy sent him a countermand, to defer his departure till he had given him a reinforcement.

Meanwhile, the change in the destination of the Havana fleet had not been to the taste of all who had embarked in it, and more than four hundred deserted before it sailed out of port. This mishap did not disconcert the Governor; he trusted that the valor of those who remained faithful to him would make up for numbers, and contented himself with embarking sixty grenadiers of his garrison in place of the deserters. On the 29th of June, Don Alphonso Carrascosa set sail, having in all only eight hundred and fifty men, including regulars, volunteers and marines on twelve vessels, three frigates, and nine bilanders. As soon as he was in sight of Saint Joseph, he sent Lieutenant-Colonel Don Bruno de Cavalero to the Governor of the fort, Don Gregorio de Salinas, to learn from him the actual situation of the French at Pensacola. The Governor replied that two deserters from

1719.

They
arrive in
sight of
the bay.

¹ Barcia Ensayo Cronologico, p. 353, says July 29, not June.