

1719. that fort had assured him that Mr. de Chateaugué had made no repairs there, nor even collected material for the purpose; that Santa Rosa Island and Point Siguença were abandoned, and that the French commandant, he had no doubt, would be obliged to surrender at the first summons.

On this report, Carrascosa ran up to within half a league of Pensacola Bay,¹ and anchoring during the night, sent off a detachment of a hundred men, who, without meeting any resistance, took possession of Point Siguença, which is the western extremity of Santa Rosa Island. Fifty soldiers of the garrison of Pensacola immediately came in and surrendered,² assuring them that they had only to show themselves, to become masters of the fort; that all the French who were shut up there were good servants of the King of Spain, and would open the gates as soon as they appeared. This garrison had been very badly selected; it was composed entirely of deserters, salt smugglers, forced emigrants to Louisiana and other like rubbish, whom it was imprudent to collect in too large a body. The Spanish commander himself also entered the bay in a sloop, to inspect the real state of affairs. He saw two frigates, and had perfect leisure to examine them; reconnoitred the fort at his ease, as the cannon fired at him did not reach. Returning to Point Siguença, he ordered all the bilanders to enter the port, and as soon as they came to anchor, they opened a cannonade on the frigates and fort. The two frigates replied briskly, but this did not prevent one of them being boarded and taken. The crew of the other set fire to it and retired within the fort, which was at once invested by all the bilanders.

¹ Charlevoix here follows in the main Barcia, but Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., p. 13-4, says that the Spaniards kept their own vessel outside of Santa Rosa Island, and that the Duke de Noailles, which they had treacherously captured, sailed in un-

der French colors, and in answer to the French hail, said she was commanded by Richebourg. Then she opened fire and was joined by the other.

² Chateaugué was left with only about twenty.