

planted on the island, and which prevented their vessels from approaching near enough to the shore to favor their landing. At last, on the 26th, they weighed anchor and sailed back to Pensacola. The extent of their loss could not be precisely ascertained, but there was every reason to deem it considerable. Their greatest error was their lack of persistence, for had they continued to blockade Dauphin Island for never so short a time, they would infallibly have taken it. The besieged had been sleeping on the sand for three weeks, and could scarcely stand any longer; most of them were actually sick.¹

1719.

During this time the general had not been idle or free from trouble. He had wisely deemed it necessary to build a fort at the point of Santa Rosa Island, to defend the entrance to the harbor; and on this he employed all the negroes he had succeeded in taking from the French. What most retarded these works was the frequent alarms given to Fort St. Charles by the Indians; and when the Governor wished to make sorties upon them, these Indians leaped, says the Spanish historian, like goats on the mountain top, where it was impossible to follow them. This, with the first information which Carrascosa received from Don Estevan Berroa, as to the impossibility of taking the Philippe and landing on Dauphin Island, finally convinced him that he required a larger force to put an end to this war. A brigantine detached from Vera Cruz had assured him that the great reinforcement promised him would soon arrive; he expected provisions from Havana; the fort at Point Siguença was almost finished, as well as a fifteen gun battery that was to command the entrance of the harbor; they were diligently laboring to make Fort St. Charles proof against any insult; but hunger began already to be sensibly felt, and sickness began to spread.

They
fortify
Pensacola.

The hope of receiving the supplies, announced as very near at hand, for a time sustained the troops, but as the

¹ Bienville to the minister, Oct. 155-8. Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, 20, 1719; Bénard de la Harpe, pp. p.357.