

1719.

of the enemy's vessels, and when to anchor with a spring on the cable would have required a starboard tack, that is, turning to the right, the fire became very warm on both sides and lasted two hours. The Spanish historian counts six hours' combat, including, apparently, all the time that his nation's ships were firing on ours; he adds that the Indians and Canadians kept firing all night on Fort San Carlos; that the fire at the entrance of the port was kept up till the fort at the point was entirely demolished, and only two frigates in fighting condition, and that which bore the Spanish general sinking; that then Mr. de Champmêlin, touched to see so many brave men perish, sent to tell Don Alphonso Carrascosa to surrender, which he did. Don Bruno also surrendered with the remnant of the garrison of the fort on the point.¹

Fort
San Carlos
taken, with
its garrison
prisoners
of war.

This done, the French general sent to summon the Governor of Pensacola to surrender as a prisoner of war with all his garrison, in default whereof, there should be no quarter for any one. Matamoros said that he would answer in two days. Mr. de Bienville, who had five hundred Indians and a hundred and fifty Canadians, had already refused to make terms with him, and he felt that if Mr. de Champmêlin allowed Bienville to storm the place, as he threatened through Mr. de Lille, his first lieutenant, he could never hold out, yet he allowed de Lille to depart without a reply; but his officers, to whom he imparted the summons, forced him to recall that officer. He told him that he surrendered, and lowered his flag. Mr. de Champmêlin showed great courtesy to all the officers, and told them that he had never yet seen so gallant a defence; it was indeed conducted with great ardor and valor.²

¹ Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 360. Dumont and Le Page du Pratz on the contrary, say, p. 23, that the great fort San Carlos fired only one gun, and surrendered for fear of falling into the hands of Saint Denis and his Indians, who were investing him. He says the Spaniards

fled between decks, and had not courage to venture out to haul down their flag.

² Charlevoix here generally follows Barcia, but La Harpe says, p. 163, that Champmêlin received Don Alphonso courteously, but that Matamoros was disarmed by a sailor,