

13th, at three o'clock in the afternoon, a ship hove in sight, and at the same time they brought to the general another Spaniard, who had been found on Santa Rosa Island. This man told him that he had come from Vera Cruz in the ship then in sight; that he and two others had been sent ashore in the boat, which had been lost; that his comrades were drowned, and that he had escaped by swimming. Soon after, the ship fired three guns, as if to recall the boat, and the longboat was seen putting off. It landed at Point Siguença, with casks to take in water. It was captured, and those in it said that they had sailed from Vera Cruz thirty-five days before, and that their ship was loaded with stores, and a reinforcement of a hundred men for Pensacola; that the northeast wind had detained them at Dauphin Island, and that they had endeavored to take in water there, but had been prevented.

1719.

The next morning the ship, which had anchored outside the bay, fired a gun to recall its longboat, but as it did not return, she lay to where she was till eleven o'clock. But then a violent southeast wind forced her to enter and anchor. The Count de Champmêlin hoisted his flag. This ship was commanded by Don Francisco de la Peña, one of the captains of the Barlovento Fleet. As soon as he saw the French flag he lowered his, and the general sent to demand the letters which he had from the Viceroy.¹ He gave them and they confirmed all that was already known of the designs of the Spaniards. This information did not alter at all the resolution to depart which Mr. de Champmêlin had formed, as sickness was increasing in his ships. The Mars, however, had orders to remain till its crew recovered from the pestilence, which had not left the ship from the time of its arrival in America. The Maréchal de Villars and the Comte de Toulouse were not in a seaworthy condition, and were also obliged to remain.

¹ The vessel thus captured was the Chico. Barcia, p. 361. The captain threw his letters overboard, but they were recovered by a French soldier. Dumont, ii., p. 27. Bénéard de la Harpe, p. 167.