

Baird's "Huguenot Emigration To America" Vol. I

70 ATTEMPTED SETTLEMENTS: FLORIDA.

de Machonville, Jean Dubois, Valuot, Cosette, Louis Ballaud, Nicolas Verdier, de Saint-Clerk, de la Vigne, Du Lys, and Le Beau have come down to us. Among the artisans, seamen and soldiers, were Nicolas le Challeux, of Dieppe, Nicaise de la Crotte, François Duval, Elie Desplanques, Jacques Tauzé, Christophe Lebreton, Drouet, Jacques Dulac, Masselin, Jehan Mennin, Gros, Bellot, Martin, Pierre Rennat, Jacques, Vincent Simon, and Michel Gonnor. This time, the religious wants of the adventurers were not forgotten. At least one clergyman,³ Robert by name, accompanied them. The minister had an efficient helper in Le Challeux, the ship-carpenter, a man of advanced years, and well versed in Holy Scripture.⁴

Jean Ribaut was called home from England to command this fleet, which sailed from the harbor of Dieppe, in the latter part of May, and arrived at the mouth of St. John's river on the twenty-seventh of August. The larger ships remained at anchor, while Ribaut with three smaller vessels sailed up the river to La Caroline. Laudonnière, summoned on board the flag-ship, was soon able to clear himself from the charges which Ribaut brought to his notice, and the old associates were friends once more.

³ Gaffarel intimates that more than one minister was sent.—Histoire de la Floride française, par Paul Gaffard. P. 195. "Maitre Robert, qui avoit charge de faire les prieres," is the only one mentioned by Le Challeux.

⁴ A graphic account of the expedition from the pen of this pious Huguenot has been preserved.

*Rev. P. Robert 1st Permanent
reasonable sure! etc*

A COMMON DANGER.

71

But a common danger was now to cement their fortunes. Five days after Ribaut's arrival, tidings were signaled from the coast that another fleet had come in sight. It was late in the afternoon; a heavy fog was just lifting, and in the dusk the sentinels at the mouth of the river could not distinguish the nationality of the ships. The night of the third of September wore away anxiously at La Caroline. But with the dawn of the following day all uncertainty vanished. Ribaut's larger vessels were now seen to have left their anchorage, and to be making for the open sea. They had descried the approaching fleet, and recognized a dreaded foe. The Spaniards had come. Spain and France were for the time at peace. But Spain had always denied the right of France in the New World. Florida belonged to Spain by virtue of discovery; and though the Spaniards had been unsuccessful heretofore in their attempts to conquer the country, they did not propose to surrender their claim to a rival power. Least of all would they permit the hated Huguenot to establish himself upon those shores. No sooner did Philip the Second learn that such an attempt had actually been made, than he commissioned one of his bravest and most resolute captains to dislodge the audacious intruder. Pedro Menendez de Abila had now come with a strong force to execute this commission. His fleet consisted of some fifteen vessels, several of them ships of large tonnage. They carried twenty-six hundred men, Spanish and Portu-

Introd.
1565.
September
3.

The
Spaniards.

March 22

ED ROBERTS
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5/30/92

Introd.
1565.

*1st Robert known
to USA. 5/29/92 ER*

Third ex-
pedition.

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