

gold and silver. Ribault concluded from their signs that the country abounded in gold and that the rivers and harbors contained pearls of great magnitude.

*It afterward developed that these ornaments came from the treasure ships of Spain that were wrecked on the lower Florida coast on their voyage home from Mexico. By trade and war the gold and other metals became scattered among the Indian tribes elsewhere, furnishing a lure that never failed to lead the white adventurer on.

Ribault spent the day on the south side and returned to the ships toward sundown. The next day (May 3d) he proceeded northward and after investigating the rivers and harbors along the way, finally reached the coast of what is now South Carolina, where it was decided to leave a post called Charlesfort, composed of 26 men. Ribault and Laudonniere then set sail for France.

* It is almost unbelievable that Ribault could have supposed this handful of men left in the wilderness at the mercy of the Indians had a chance to survive.

Ribault arrived at Dieppe late in July and found civil war raging in France. The anti-Huguenot party was in control of the government and amidst the distraction that overwhelmed the nation a delay of nearly two years was experienced in getting another expedition together.

Meantime the garrison at Charlesfort abandoned the post and embarked in a frail craft for home. Fortunately they were picked up by an English vessel, but not before they had been reduced to the horrible extremity of human sacrifice for subsistence.

Laudonniere's Expedition

The *Elizabeth of Honfleur*, 120 tons; the *Petit Breton*, 100 tons, and the *Falcon*, 60 tons, with officers, soldiers, mariners, artisans, and titled gentlemen adventurers aboard, under the command of Rene Goulaine de Laudonniere, left France in April, 1564, on a voyage across the Atlantic to Florida. These vessels came upon the coast in the vicinity of the present St. Augustine June 22d and entered the River May three days later. Laudonniere was entertained by the same chief that he met on the former voyage with Ribault. The stone column was still standing and appeared to be an object of great rev-