

was forced to seek safety in concealment; he remained in retirement ten or twelve years, idolized by a large portion of the French people.

The account of this expedition to Florida given in Champlain's "Voyages" closes in these terms:

A generous enterprise, undertaken by a gentleman, and executed at his own cost, for honor's sake alone, without any other expectation; and one which resulted in obtaining for him a glory far more valuable than all the treasures of the world.

Dominic de Gourgues was easily the most spectacular figure in Florida's early history.

\*De Gourgues' life was filled with wild adventure staged in the remote parts of the world as known in his time. He was in the armies of different princes for many years. He was in command of a company that was cut to pieces near Sienna and was there captured by the Spaniards. They put him in a galley as a galley slave, and while serving in this capacity he was captured by the Turks and so used by them on the Mediterranean. The galley in which he was serving was eventually restored to the French and De Gourgues returned to France. He then made a voyage to Africa, Brazil, and the South Seas, from which it is said he returned with considerable wealth. Upon his return from this voyage he learned of the massacre of the Huguenots in Florida. There had been published in France a tract entitled "Supplication of the Widows and Children of those Massacred in Florida", calculated to rouse feeling to a high pitch. As a patriot De Gourgues felt the honor of his country was at stake, and as a man his fiery nature burned for an opportunity for revenge for the ignoble treatment of himself by the Spaniards. These united motives urged him to the chivalrous undertaking against the Spaniards in Florida—un-Christian it may have been, but intensely dramatic. Religion, however, played no part in it, for De Gourgues himself was a Catholic. He emerged from the retirement following the Florida enterprise to accept appointment as commander of the high seas fleet; on his way to assume command he contracted a sickness from which he never recovered. He died in 1582.

The history of a city includes the record of the locality before the city was founded and these stirring scenes at the mouth of the St. Johns River therefore are properly included as the first chapter of Jacksonville's history.