as ransom for supplies. This scheme resulted disastrously for the French, since a number of them were killed in capturing the chief, while the enmity of the natives was raised to the highest pitch. Thoroughly disheartened, they at last decided to build a suitable vessel and return to France.

English Sea-Rover Visits Fort Caroline

Demolishing several houses and tearing away a part of the fort for timber, work was started on the vessel designed to take the colonists home. The construction progressed under many difficulties, as several of the most experienced carpenters had been killed by the Indians. Amidst these preparations, Sir John Hawkins, returning from a slave-selling expedition along the Spanish Main, unexpectedly appeared at the mouth of the River May, August 4, 1565, having been guided along the coast by a Frenchman, who was with Ribault on the first voyage to Florida. They were seeking the colony at Charlesfort, but when they reached the River May they saw two pinnaces and learned of the circumstances and condition of Fort Caroline two English leagues up the river. Hawkins paid a visit to the fort and supplied the French with meat and other provisions. He sold Laudonniere one of his vessels, taking some of the ordnance of Fort Caroline in payment therefor. Laudonniere says, "Moreover, for as much as he saw my soldiers go barefoot, he offered me fifty pairs of shoes, which I accepted and agreed of a price with him, for which until this present I am indebted to him; for particularly he bestowed upon myself a great jar of oil, a jar of vinegar, a barrel of olives, a great quantity of rice and a barrel of white biscuit. Besides he gave divers presents to the principal officers of my company, according to their qualities; so that I may say, that we received as many courtesies of the General as it was possible to receive of any man."

After the departure of Hawkins, the French hurried their preparations for leaving Florida. By the 15th of August (1565) everything was in readiness, and they waited only a fair wind to hoist the sails. In this state of anxious suspense they were detained till the 28th, when the wind and tide became favorable and they were on the point of departing; but just at that moment the sails of several vessels were discovered at sea approaching the coast. Ribault had arrived!