on the spot, but some were captured and held for a specific purpose.

De Gourgues marched his prisoners to a suitable spot, where he lectured them, reciting the details of the slaughter of his countrymen by Menendez. Then they were hanged from nearby trees. On a tablet of firwood he wrote with a searing iron, "I do not this as unto Spaniards nor Mariners, but as unto Thieves, Traitors, and Murderers," and placed the placard beneath the victims as a message to the Spaniards that he knew would come from St. Augustine after his departure.

* Menendez was in Spain at this time. Had he been in Florida it is possible that he might have been on a visit to San Mateo and fallen into the hands of the Frenchman, in which event the history of that Spaniard's life without a doubt would have closed right there. The Indians would have found a great deal of pleasure in it too, for, as Bancroft says, they unquestionably enjoyed seeing their enemies butcher each other.

The necessity of destroying the fort was now explained to the Indians and they set about the work with such zeal that San Mateo was razed in one day. The French removed the cannon and small arms to two boats that lay off the fort, but the ammunition was lost as the result of an accident. An Indian while boiling his fish set fire to a train of powder laid by the Spaniards, by which the ammunition house was blown up; from this other houses caught fire on their thatched roofs and were quickly destroyed.

With the demolition of the other forts and the hanging of the prisoners held at the first fort, De Gourgues considered his object accomplished. He sent the ordnance taken from the forts around by boat and set out with his diminutive army over the route by which he came. He found his vessels on the St. Marys in order and on May 3d hoisted sail and headed for home, where he arrived at Rochelle on the 6th of June, 1568.

News of the disaster in Florida reached Spain while De Gourgues was still at Rochelle receiving the congratulations of his admirers and friends. A Spanish squadron was sent to capture him there, but he moved to another port before its arrival. A price was put upon his head. The Spanish king made representations to the French court and De Gourgues