Menendez left Spain on his return voyage to Florida about the time De Gourgues sailed out of the St. Marys and headed for home; they passed somewhere on the broad Atlantic, one sailing westward and the other eastward. It is not difficult to imagine the fury that shook the frame of Menendez when he arrived at St. Augustine and learned what had taken place at the mouth of the San Mateo during his absence. Nevertheless, he set to work rebuilding the large fort and again garrisoned it, but never afterward with as many men as were there at the time of the Frenchman's attack. The small forts destroyed by De Gourgues do not seem to have been rebuilt, though maps of a later day show other posts along the river.

Following the tragic scenes when French and Spanish fought for the possession of Florida, a long period elapsed before events having a direct bearing on this immediate vicinity again shaped themselves to become recorded history. It was a sort of inactive interim in local history, between the long ago and the beginning of development attending the actual English occupation in 1764. However, during this period there were occasional forays between St. Augustine and the English settlements to the north in which English, Spanish and Indians took part. War parties now and then camped for awhile on the bluff that sloped down to the river at the foot of our present Liberty and Washington Streets. In Spanish times this bluff was described as imposing and timbered with live-oak, palm (palmetto), and wild orange. At the foot of Liberty Street there was a rather bold spring of clear, good water,* (an outcropping, perhaps, of the stream that is known at the present day to underlie the surface in that section of the city). Back from the river a short distance stood a small Indian village.¹

* One of the earliest Spanish maps shows an Indian village here called Osachite. This liquid Indian name, Os-sachi-te is the earliest record of a name applying to the locality of Jacksonville. It was a Timuqua village of probably not more than half a dozen houses thatched in the Timuqua style, as shown by Le Moyne's drawings.