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SIR JOHN HAWKINS IN FLORIDA

The visit of Sir John Hawkins to the struggling and disheartened French colonists near the mouth of what is now the St. Johns River is one of the most interesting episodes of that age of gallantry and adventure. It illustrates extreme courtesy and generosity under circumstances when ruthlessness would have been expected ; thus we see why every school-boy instinctively admires the freebooting pirate. Besides, the consequences of that short stay were felt in a revitalized curiosity regarding the new world.

William Hawkins, the father of Sir John, had been a merchant engaged in foreign trade ; he had exported English cloth and tin to the ports of Western Europe. His ships brought him cargoes of fish, wines, salt, oil, sugar, and pepper. As his field expanded, he "armed out a goodly ship," in which he made three voyages to Brazil and skirted the African coast. To him is conceded credit for beginning the African slave-trade, in which England was engaged for nearly three centuries.¹ The second of his voyages seems to have been as early as 1530, when he brought back home a savage king. These voyages were so successful that a number of Southampton merchants followed his example, at least as late as 1540. In 1532 and 1533 he was mayor of Plymouth, where he had been a leading townsman.

In 1544, the French war being in full progress, Hawkins and others received a commission to annoy the King's enemies and defend the realm with four, six, or eight barks, at their own costs and charges. Such craft ranged the Channel and Bay of Biscay,

¹Justin Winsor: *Narrative and Critical History of America*, III, 59-60.

sweeping French commerce off the sea. This privateering proved rather successful ; in fact, Channel privateering became a regular business, which scarcely ceased before the beginning of the next century.

The last years of William Hawkins were spent in political and administrative work. He was elected to Parliament in 1539 and 1547. A deed dated the 8th February, 1554, speaks of "William Hawkins merchant of Plymouth" as recently deceased. Besides a goodly estate, a fleet of merchantmen and privateers, and a distinguished reputation, he left to the world two sons -William and John.

The subject of our sketch, John Hawkins, was born, according to his epitaph, formerly in the Church of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, in 1532. At that time the sons of a wealthy merchant would be taught when quite young to read and write and to understand a little Latin. Though their schooling did not go far, it was thorough ; and it was completed at about the age when the modern boy first goes to school in earnest. Life was shorter then ; and the man of twenty had no more expectation of years than the man of forty now. As the small sailing-ships of the day were packed with skilled craftsmen, carpenters, gunners, coopers, sail-makers, and pursers, and as every man had to learn to take his turn at the other man's job, it is evident that maritime commerce afforded a practical training. "John Hawkins, as his career bears witness, was a man of a type which has no counterpart in our specialising age. He was a consummate seaman, able to save his ship when all on board gave her up for lost; he was a good navigator, and a merchant knowing every detail of varied business ; he had such knowledge, if not personal experience, of ship-building that he could manage the royal dockyards more successfully than any official of his time ; he had a wide grasp of politics, and as a

diplomatist was able to outwit the most cunning practitioners of the craft ; and to all his close acquaintances with many humble trades he added a social quality which enabled him. to talk with kings and ambassadors as confidently as with his clerks and sailors." ²

In October, 1562, Hawkins sailed for the coast of Guinea. He had engaged several friends, including some noblemen, in the adventure. There were three ships and a hundred men. Partly by the sword and partly by other means, some three hundred or more negroes were captured ; they were carried to Santo Domingo (then Hispaniola) and sold profitably. He brought home, in his own ships, hides, ginger, sugar, and some pearls. He arrived in England in September, 1563.

We should bear in mind that no opprobrium was attached to slave-trading. It does not seem to have occurred to Hawkins or to his contemporaries that the traffic was anything reprehensible ; indeed, it was regarded almost as a crusade. The savages were being exposed to Christian influences, which they would not have known otherwise ; besides, we should not look for the same refinement of human sympathy in the Elizabethan adventurers as in a later age. Religion was a prominent concern. in the lives of the sixteenth century seaman, whatever we think to-day of some of their doings ; the ships usually carried chaplains and there were daily services aboard both morning and evening. In the sailing directions of Hawkins's second voyage, he concludes with these words: "Serve God daily, love one another, preserve your victuals, beware-of fire, and keepe good companie." In the account of that journey, preserved by Richard Hakluyt, we have such language as the following: "God, who worketh all things for the best, would not have it so, and by him we escaped with-

²Williamson: *Sir John, Hawkins*, 65.

out danger, his name be prayed for it." . . . "The Almighty God, who never suffereth his elect to perish, sent us the sixteenth of Februarie, the ordinary Brise, which is the Northwest winde, which never left us" . . . "We were divers times (or rather the most part) in despaire of ever coming home, had not God of his goodnesse better provided for us, then our deserving. In which state of great miserie, wee were provoked to call upon him by fervent prayer, which mooved him to heare, us, so that we had a prosperous winde."

Jean Ribault's first colony had been planted at Charlesfort in 1562. He had left Albert de la Pierria in command and had returned to France, reaching Dieppe on the 20th of July, 1562, to find the first civil war in progress and the port in the hands of his fellow Huguenots. When the Roman Catholics took Dieppe in October, he fled to England, where he published his *Relation*, describing the advantages of Florida. Most people believed in the great wealth of Florida; and such a poem as "Have you not hard of floryda,"³ found in the Bodleian Library, and written about 1564, reveals the-eager interest felt in the land of gold, pearls, birds and flowers.

Thomas Stukeley, a gentleman of Devon, long engaged in Channel freebooting, in partnership with William Hawkins as joint owner of a privateer, arranged in 1563 that he and Ribault should lead an Anglo-French expedition to Florida. This was to be a preliminary step to the acquisition of the country by the English crown. But Stukeley treacherously unfolded the scheme to the Spanish ambassador, and delayed the preparations in order that Spain might take advantage of the warning. In November, 1563, cruising in the Channel, he fell in with the Frenchmen returning from

³"An Early Poem on Florida." *Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, July 1928, Vol. VII., No. 1, pp. 72-74.

the unfortunate Charlesfort colony, and made them prisoners, bringing their leaders to court. The Hawkins brothers realized that Stukeley was not to be trusted, and so they ousted him from control. But the visit to Florida became one of the objects of the 1564 expedition which Sir John was soon to undertake.

In April, 1564, a new French leader, Rene de Laudonniere sailed from Havre with three ships to re-establish the colony, Ribault had gone to France, to take a further part in the project. It was still desirable, however, that Hawkins should go to Florida. He would learn something at first hand about the alleged wealth of the country and this information would be of value to England. It was on the 18th of October, 1564, that he sailed from Plymouth. The Queen had lent him and his associates a ship of the Royal Navy, the *Jesus of Lubeck*, rated at seven hundred tons. With her three of Hawkins's own ships were to sail—the *Salomon* of a hundred and twenty tons, the *Tiger* of fifty, and the *Swallow* of thirty. Unfortunately, there is no full list of the officers and men. Sir John sailed in the *Jesus* as commander-in-chief. The expedition passed down the coast of Guinea picking up negroes and some of the men were lost by sickness and in fights with the blacks. Early in 1565 the English crossed to the West Indies and until the last of May were trading on the Spanish coasts; then they returned to England. After leaving the northern coast of Cuba, Hawkins made a thorough examination of the outer coast of the Florida peninsula, working upward from 26 degrees North Latitude to 30 1/2, degrees, where he found the French. The English liked the appearance of the land, judging it good for cattle raising ; but since it was mostly a false shore of spits and islands, with lagoons behind them, there was a lack of rivers where the ships could be watered. As for the fab-

ulous stories of gold which had been carried back, it was concluded that the French at their first coming had undoubtedly found the savages in possession of such treasures but the same had come from stranded ships.

In the account of the voyage, found in Hakluyt's *Principal Navigations Voyages Traffiques & Discoveries the English Nation*, we read :- "In ranging this coast along, the captaine found it to be all an Island, and therefore it is all lowe land, and very scant of fresh water, but the countrey was marvellously sweet, with both marish and medow ground, and goodly woods among. There they found sorrel to grow as abundantly as grasse, and where their houses were, great store of maiz and mill, and grapes of great bignesse, but of taste much like our English grapes. Also Deere great plentie, which came upon the sands before them."

Of the Indians, it is said:---⁴

"Their houses are not many together, for in one house an hundred of them do lodge; they being made much like a great barne, and in strength not inferiour to ours, for they have stanchions and rafters of whole trees, and are covered with palmito-leaves, having no place divided, but one small roome for their king and queene. In the midst of this house is a hearth, where they make great fires all night, and they sleepe upon certeine pieces of wood hewen in for the bowing of their backs, and another place made high for their heads, which they put one by another all along the walles on both sides. In their houses they remaine onely in the nights, and in the day they desire the fields, where they dresse their and make provision for victuals, which they provide onely for a meale from hand to mouth. There is one thing to be marvelled at, for the making of their fire, and not onely they but also the Negros doe the same, which is made onely by two stickes, rubbing them one against another; and this they may doe in any place they come, where they finde sticks sufficient for the purpose. In their apparell the men onely use deere skines, wherewith

⁴This account seems to have been written by John Sparke, one of the officers of the "Jesus."

some onely cover their privy members, othersome use the same as garments to cover them before and behind; which skinnes are painted, some yellow and red, blacke & russet, and every man according to his owne fancy. They do not omit to paint their bodies also with curious knots, or antike worke, as every man in his owne fancy deviseth, which painting, to make it continue the better, they use with a thorne to pricke their flesh, and dent in the same, whereby the painting may have better hold. In their warres they use a sleighter colour of painting their faces, thereby to make themselves shew the more fierce; which after their warres ended, they wash away againe. In their warres they use bowes and arrowes, whereof their bowes are made of a kind of Yew, but blacker than ours, and for the most part passing the strength of the Negros or Indians, for it is not greatly inferior to ours: their arrowes are also of a great length, but yet of reeds like other Indians, but varying in two points, both in length and also for nocks and feathers, which the other lacke, whereby they shoot very stedy: the heads of the same are vipers teeth, bones of fishes, flint stones, piked points of knives, which they have gotten of the French men, broke the same, & put the points of them in their arrowes head: some of them have their heads of silver, othersome that have want of these, put in a kinde of hard wood, notched, which pierceth as farre as any of the rest. In their fight, being in the woods, they use a marvellous pollicie for their owne safeguard, which is by clasping a in their armes, and yet shooting notwithstanding: this policy they used with the French men in their fight, whereby it appeareth that they are people of some policy: and although they are called by the Spanyards, Gente triste, that is to say, Bad people, meaning thereby, that they are not men of capacity: yet have the French men found them so witty in their answers, that by the captaines owne report, a counsellor with us could not give a more profound reason.

“The women also for their apparell use painted skinnes, but most of them gowned of mosse, somewhat longer then our mosse, which they sowe together artificially, and make the same surplesse wise, wearing their haire downe to their shoulders, like the Indians.”

Of the resources of the peninsula, Hawkins's (or Sparke's) narrative says :-

“The ground yeeldeth naturally grapes in great store, for in the time that the Frenchmen were there, they made 20 hogs-heads of wine. Also it yeeldeth roots passing good, Deere

marvellous store, with divers other beasts, and fowle, serviceable to the use of man. These be things wherewith a man may live, having corne or maiz wherewith to make bread: for maiz maketh good savory bread, and cakes as fine as flowre. Also it maketh good meale, beaten and sodden with water, and eateth like pap wherewith we feed children. It maketh also good beverage, sodden in water, and nourishable; which the Frenchmen did use to drinke of in the morning, and it assuageth their thirst, so that they had no need to drinke all the day after."

Tobacco is thus described:-

"The Floridians when they travell have a kinde of herbe dried, who with a cane and an earthen cup in the end, with fire, and the dried herbs put together, doe sucke thorow the cane the smoke thereof, which smoke satisfieth their hunger, and therewith they live foure or five dayes without meat or drinke, and this all the Frenchmen used for this purpose: yet do they holde opinion withall, that it causeth water & fleame to void from their stomacks."

Of the abundance of the natural resources, Hawkins (or Sparke) reports:-

"The commodities of this land are more then are yet knowen to any man: for besides the land it selfe, whereof there is more than any king Christian is able to inhabit, it flourisheth with medow, pasture ground, with woods of Cedar and Cypres, and other sorts, as better can not be in the world. They have for apothecary herbs, trees, roots and gumm es great store, as Storax liquida, Turpentine, Gumme, Myrrhe, and Frankinsence, with many others, whereof I know not the names. Colours both red, blacke, yellow, & russet, very perfect, wherewith they so paint their bodies, and Deere skinnes which they weare about them, that with water it neither fadeth away, nor altereth colour."

The English made some interesting notes concerning the Florida wild-life:-

"The Floridians have pieces of unicornes hornes which they weare about their necks, whereof the Frenchmen obtained many pieces. Of those unicornes they have many; for that they doe affirme it to be a beast with one horne, which comming to the river to drinke, putteth the same into the water before he drinketh. . . Of beasts in this countrey besides deere, foxes, hares, polcats, conies, ownces, & leopards, I am not able certainly to say: but it is thought that there are lions and tygres as well as unicorns; lions especially; . . . crocodiles, whereof there is

great abundance, adders of great bignesse, whereof our men killed some of a yard and a halfe long. . . On these adders the Frenchmen did feed, to no little admiration of us, and affirmed the same to be a delicate meat. And the captaine of the Frenchmen saw also a serpent with three heads and foure feet, of the bigness of a great spaniell, which for want of a harquebuz he durst not attempt to slay. Of fish also they have in the river, pike, roch, salmon, trout, and divers other small fishes, and of great fish, some of the length of a man and longer, being of bignesse accordingly, having a snout much like a sword of a yard long. There be also of sea fishes which we saw coming along the coast flying, which are of the bignesse of a smelt, the biggest sort whereof have foure wings, but the other have but two. . . . We tooke also dolphins which are of very goodly colour and proportion to behold, and no lesse delicate in taste. Fowles also there be many, both upon land and upon sea: but concerning them on the land I am not able to name them, because my abode was there so short. But for the fowle of the fresh rivers, these two I noted to be the chiefe, whereof the Flemengo is one, having all red feathers, and long red legs like a herne, a necke according to the bill, red, whereof the upper neb hangeth an inch over the nether; and an egypt, which is all white as the swanne, with legs like to an hearnshaw, and of bignesse accordingly, but it hath in her taile feathers of so fine a plume, that it passeth the estridge his feather. Of the sea-fowle above all other not common in England, I noted the pellicane, which is fained to be the lovingst bird that is; which rather then her young should want, will spare her heart bloud out of her belly: but for all this lovingnesse she is very deformed to beholde; for she is of colour russet: as a swan, having legs like the same, and a body like a hearne, with a long necke, and a thick long beake, from the nether jaw whereof downe to the breast passeth a skinne of such a bignesse, as is able to receive a fish as big as ones thigh, and this her big throat and long bill doeth make her seem so ougly."

We return to the incidents of the expedition. The Frenchmen were discovered in the River of May (the St. Johns), where Laudonniere and his party had been for over a year without relief. Short of food, having exhausted the local Indians' supply of maize, they had begun fighting with the natives. A French ship of eighty tons and two pinnaces were lying in the river, according to the account printed by Hakluyt ; but Lau-

donniere's statements imply that he was completely cut off from France. Hawkins found the colonists in such distress, "that they were faine to gather acorns, which being stamped small, and often washed, to take away the bitternesse of them, they did use for bread, eating withall sundry times, roots, whereof they found many good and wholesome, and such as serve rather for medicines then for meates alone." Yet the French had not exerted their best efforts towards relieving their condition and had shown, besides, a poor spirit so far as loyalty was concerned. "But this hardnesse not contenting some of them, who would not take the paines so much as to fish in the river before their doores, but would have all things put in their mouthes, they did rebell against the captaine, taking away first his armour, and afterwards imprisoning him." The eighty who mutinied deserted the colony ; some of them returned and were punished. But, the Englishman observes, "Notwithstanding the great want that the Frenchmen had, the ground doth yeeld victuals sufficient, if they would have taken paines to get the same; but they being soldiers, desired to live by the sweat of other mens browes: for while they had peace with the Floridians, they had fish sufficient, by weares which they made to catch the same: but when they grew to warres, the Floridians tooke away the same againe, and then would not the Frenchmen take the paines to make any more."

Hawkins recognized the condition of the colonists, and proceeded to relieve their immediate wants. There were not over forty Frenchmen who had not been wounded in warfare with the natives, and offensive measures against the Indians were impossible. "They had not above ten dayes victuall left before we came. In which perplexity our captaine seeing them, spared them out of his ship twenty barreles of meale, & foure

pipes of beanes, with divers other victuals and necessaries which he might conveniently spare." Hawkins also offered the colonists a passage home, engaging to land them in France before touching the English coast. But Laudonniere, while surprised by the largeness of the Englishman's offer, refused. He must have suspected that there was a design to occupy the colony in his place ; and it would have been a great advantage to the English to eliminate the French settlement and establish a post in such a strategic position.

The settlers were much disturbed at Laudonniere's rejection of the offer; but they were appeased when he bought a fifty-ton ship from the visitors. He paid partly in ordnance and powder, and partly by a bill signed by himself, which he admitted twenty years later to be still owing.

In 1586, there was published at Paris and dedicated to Sir Walter Raleigh, an account of four French expeditions-1562, 1564, 1565, and 1567-known as "L'histoire notable de la Floride" (see Sources following) . In this work, we find Laudonniere's own account of the visit of Hawkins. Hakluyt published this narrative in English, in his *Notable History translated by R. H.* This translation, which was published in London, 1587, is the rarest of Hakluyt's publications. The only known copy in America is in the Lenox Library ; it is listed in Sabin, Vol. XX., No. 39, 236. We, therefore, quote Laudonniere's version of the Englishman's stay.

"For if we had beene succoured in time and place and according to the promise that was made unto us, the warre which was between us and Vtina, had not fallen out, neither shoulde we have had occasion to offend the Indians, which with al paines in the world I entertayned in good amitie, as well with merchandise and apparell, as with promise of greater matters, and with whome I so behaved my selfe, that although sometimes I was constrayned to take victuals in some fewe villages, yet I lost not the alliance of eight kings and Lords my neighbours,

which continually succoured and ayded me with whatsoever they were able to afford. Yea this was the principal scope of all my purposes, to winne and entertaine them, knowing howe greatly their amitie might advance our enterprise, and principally while I discovered the commodities of the country, and sought to strengthen my selfe therein. I leave it to your cogitation to thinke how neere it went to our heartes, to leave a place abounding in riches (as we were thoroughly enformed thereof) in coming whereunto, and doing service unto our Prince, we left our owne countrie, wives, children, parentes, and friendes, and passed the perils of the sea, and were therein arrived, as in a plentifull treasure of all heartes desire. As ech of us were much tormented in minde with these or such like cogitations, the thirde of August I discryed foure sayles in the sea, as I walked uppon a little hill, whereof I was exceeding well appaide: I sent immediately one of them which were with mee to advertise those of the fort thereof, which were so glad of those newes, that one would have thought them to bee out of their wittes to see them laugh and leape for joy. After these shippes had cast ancre, we discried that they sent one of their ship boates to lande: whereupon I caused one of mine to be armed with diligence, to send to meete them, and to know who they were. In the meane while fearing least they were Spaniards, I set my soldiers in order & in readines, attending the returne of Captaine *Vasseurr* and my lieutenant, which were gone to meete them, which brought mee word that they were Englishmen: & in truth they had in their companie one whose name was *Martine Atinas* of Diepe, which at that time was in their service, which on the behalfe of Maister *John Hawkins* their generall came to request me that I woulde suffer them to take fresh water, whereof they stood in great neede, signifying unto me that they had beene above fiteene daies on the coast to get some. He brought unto me from the generall two flacons of wine, and bread made of wheate: which greatly refreshed me, forasmuch as for seven moneths space I never tasted a droppe of wine: nevertheless it was divided among the greatest part of my souldyers. This *Martine Atinas* had guided the Englishmen unto our coast, wherewith he was acquainted: for in the yeare 1562. he came thither with mee, and therefore the generall sent him to mee. Therefore after I had graunted his request, he signified the same unto the generall, which the next day following caused one of his small shippes to enter into the ryver, and came to see me in a great shipboate, ac-

compained with gentlemen honourably apparelled, yet unarmed. Hee sent for great store of bread and wine, to distribute thereof to every one: On my part I made him the best cheere I possibly, and caused certaine sheepe and poultry to bee killed, which untill this present I had carefully preserved hoping to store the countrie withall. For notwithstanding all the necessities and sickness that happened unto me, I would not suffer so much as one chicking to be killed: by which meanes in a short time I had gathered together above an hundred Pullets. Now three dayes passed, while the English general remayned with me, during which tyme the Indyans came in from all parts to see hym, and asked me whether hee were my brother: I told them he was so, and signified unto them, that he was come to see me and ayde me with so great store of victuals, that from thence forward I should have no neede to take any thing of them. The brute hereof incontinently was spread over all the countrie, in such sort as Ambassadors came unto me from all parts, which on the behalfe of the kings their masters desired to make alliance with mee: and even they, which before sought to make warre against me, came to offer their friendship and service unto mee: Whereupon I received them and gratified them with certayne pretences. The generall immediately understoode the desire & urgent occasion which I had to returne unto France. (p. 50) / (p. 51) Whereupon he offered to transport me and al my company home: whereunto notwithstanding I would not agree, being in doubt upon what occasion hee made so large an offer. For I knewe not howe the case stode between the French and the English: and although he promised me on his faith to put me on land in France, before he would touch in England, yet I stode in doubt least he would attempt somewhat in *Florida* in the name of his mistresse. Wherefore I flatly refused his offer: whereunto there rose a great mutiny among my Souldiers, which sayd that I sought to destroy them all, and that the Brigantine, whereof I spake before, was not sufficient to transport them, considering the season of the yeare wherein we were. The brute and mytine increased more and more: for after that the Generall was returned to his ships, he told certaine gentlemen and souldiers which went to see him, partly to make good cheere with him, he declared, I say, unto them, that he greatly doubted that hardly we shoulde bee able to passe safely in those vessels which we had: & that in case we should enterprise the same, we shoulde no doubt bee in great ieopardye: notwithstanding if I were so contented, hee would transport part of my men in his shippes, and that hee would leave me

a small shippe to transport the rest. The Souldyers were no sooner come home, but they signified the offer unto their companions, which incontinently consented together that in case I would not accept the same they would imbarke themselves with hym and forsake me, so that he would receive them according to his promise. They therefore assembled themselves altogether and came to seeke me in my Chamber, and signified unto me their intention, whereunto I promised to aunswere within one houre after. In which meane space I gathered together the principall members of my company, which after I had broken the matter with them, answered all with one voice, that I ought not to refuse this offer, nor contemne the occasion which presented it selfe, and that they could not thinke evill of it in France, if being forsaken, as we were, we ayded our selves with such meanes as God had sent us. After sundry debatinges of this matter, in conclusion I gave mine advise, that wee ought to deliver him the price of the shippe which hee was to leave us, & that for my part I was content to give him the best of my stufte, and the silver which I had gathered in the Country. Whereupon notwithstanding it was determined that I shoulde keepe the silver, for feare, least the Queene of England seeing the same shoulde the rather be encouraged to set footing there, as before shee had desired: that it was farre better to carry it into France, to give encouragement unto our Princes not to leave of an enterprise of so great importance for our common wealth, and that, seeing we were resolved to depart, it was farre better to give him our Artillerye, which otherwise we should bee constrained to leave behind us, or to hide it in the ground, by reason of the weakenes of our men, being not able to imbarke the same. This point being thus concluded and resolved on, I went my selfe unto the English Generall, accompanied with my Lieutenant, and Captaine Vasseur, Captaine Verdier, and *Trenchant* the Pilot, and my Sergeant, all men of experience in such affaires and knowing sufficiently how to drive such a bargaine. We therefore tooke a viewe of the shippe which the Generall would sell, whom we drewe to such reason, that he was content to stand unto mine owne mens iudgement, who esteemed it to be worth seven hundred crowns, whereof we agreed very friendly. Wherefore I delivered him in earnest of the summe, two bastards, two mynions, one thousand of iron, and one thousand of powder. This bargaine thus made, he considered the necessity wherein we were, having for all our sustenance but myl & water: whereupon being moved with pitie, he offred to relieve me with twenty barrells of meale, pipes

of beanes, one hogshead of salt, and a hundred of waxe to make candels. Moreover forasmuch as he sawe Souldyers goe barefoote, hee offered me besides fifty payres of shoes, which I accepted and agreed of a price with hym, and gave hym a byll of mine hand for the same, for which untill this present I am indebted to hym. He did more than this; for particularly he bestowed upon my selfe a great iare of oyle, a iare of Vynagre, a barill of Olyves, and a great quantite of Ryce, and a barill of white Biscuit. Besides hee gave diverse presents to the principall Officers of my compayne according to their qualities: so that I may saye that wee received as many courtesies of the Generall, as it was possible to receive of any man living. Wherein doubtlesse hee hath wonne the reputation of a good and charitable man, deserving to be esteemed as much of (p. 51) / (p. 52) us all as if hee had saved all our lives. Incontinent after his departure I spared no payne to hasten my men to make biscuits of the meale which hee had left mee, and to hoope my Caske to take in water needefull for the voyage. A man may well thinke what diligence wee used, in respect of the great desire wee had to depart, wherein wee continued so well, that the fifteenth day of August the biscuit, the greatest part of our water, and all of the Souldyers stuffe was brought aborde: so that from that daye forwarde we dyd nothing but stay for good windes to drive us into France."

The subsequent history of Laudonniere's unfortunate colony is well known. The French were about to abandon the settlement, when Ribault arrived with seven ships, carrying emigrants and stores, and thus their plans were frustrated. In the hostilities which occurred with the Spaniards, only a few escaped.

Hawkins returned to England, after a successful voyage. He was gone only eleven months. As an evidence of approbation, a coat-of-arms was granted him, consisting of a black shield, with a golden lion walking in the waves; above the lion, three golden coins; for the crest, a figure of half a Moor, bound and a captive, with golden amulets on his arms and ears.

EDGAR LEGARE PENNINGTON

SOURCES

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