

French protestant colony was mercilessly destroyed. This act being a direct violation of treaties existing between the nations, caused great indignation in France ; catholics as well as protestants regarding it an insult to the national honor. Under the enthusiasm born of that feeling, a private expedition was fitted out to wreak a summary vengeance on the murderers. The command of this was given to the chevalier Dominique de Guorgues, himself a good catholic and an officer of merit. The purpose was successfully carried out, but Catherine de Medicis, who was then the *real* sovereign of France (as the young King was but fifteen years of age), would have sacrificed De Guorgues to the resentment of the Spanish King, but for the intervention of friends high in authority. In effort to palliate the act, the Spaniards insinuated that an understanding had been arrived at, that the *Huguenots of Florida should be exterminated* ; but the young King was too immature in years to be held personally responsible for the policy carried out in his name, and the connivance of the Queen-mother, though quite probable, was never clearly established.

At length the storms that had long convulsed the country subsided ; Henry IV was established on the throne, and brought his kingdom into order. Its internal affairs were regulated, commerce encouraged, manufactures established, and a general state of prosperity pervaded the kingdom, opening up new resources, and requiring some new career for its disposable energies.