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INDIAN CAPTIVITIES.

NARRATIVE

OF THE CAPTIVITY OF JOHN ORTIZ, A SPANIARD, WHO WAS ELEVEN YEARS A PRISONER AMONG THE INDIANS OF FLORIDA.

In the year 1585 Pamphilo de Narvaez, with a commission, constituting him governor of Florida, or "all the lands lying from the river of Palms to the cape of Florida," called for that country with 400 foot and 50 horse, in five ships. With this expedition went a Spaniard, named John Ortiz, a native of Seville, whose connections were among the nobility of Castile. Although we have no account of what part Ortiz acted in Narvaez's expedition, or how he escaped his disastrous issue, yet it may not be deemed out of place to notice briefly these facts.

This Narvaez had acquired some notoriety by the manner in which he had executed a commission against Cortes. He had been ordered by the governor of Cuba to seize the despot of Mexico, but was himself overthrown and deserted by his men. On falling into the hands of Cortes, his arrogance did not forsake him, and he addressed him thus: "Behold a good service that you have taken me prisoner." "Nay," replied Cortes, "it is the least of the things I have done in Mexico." To return to the expedition of which we have promised to speak.

Narvaez landed in Florida not very far from, or perhaps at the bay of Apalachee, in the month of April, and marched into the country with his men. They knew no other direction but that pointed out by the Indians, whom they compelled to go as guides. Their first disappointment was on their arrival