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battle, sustain its ancient reputation; it was beaten and almost destroyed by 2,000 Biscayans, of astonishing agility, who, separating by platoons of ten, twenty, or thirty men, attacked it with inconceivable celerity and address. They were seen, all at once making a discharge, disappearing at the moment they should be in turn attacked, and reappearing unexpectedly, again to disappear. It is said that Antonio de Leva had, for some time trained these arquebusiers to fight thus in platoons between the squadrons of the Spanish cavalry, and that he had borrowed the manouever from the Greeks. A stratagem of Pescara's contributed still further to the success of the day. This general having approached the enemy's camp a little before the commencement of the battle, returned to his own to announce that the King of France had just published in his army a prohibition, under a capital punishment, to grant quarter to any Spaniard.

This information although false, produced so strong an impression upon his troops, that almost all the imperialists swore to spare the life of no Frenchman, and to die sooner than surrender. This oath rendered the Spaniards equally invincible in fight and ferocious after victory.

The French monarch sustained the powerful charges of the enemy like a hero. Francis of Loraine, and Richard de la Polc, the last heir of the house of Suffolk, endeavored, with some companies of Lansque'nets, to disengage him; but they were killed, and the soldiers instantly turned their backs. Bonnevet perished fighting, and was regretted by nobody. Louis-de-la Trémouille shared the same fate; nearly 9,000 warriors, all gentlemen, were left lifeless on the field of battle. The *méléc* was terrible around the king.

Left almost alone in the midst of a host of enemies, he inspired terror in all who ventured to approach him.

He had already immolated five of his assailants, when his horse was killed, the monarch fell, and a rush was made to seize him. Springing up, he recovered himself and killed two more Spaniards. At this moment Molac-de-Kercardo, first gentleman of the chamber, perceived the peril of his master, and dispersed or killed all who stood in the way of his zeal.

He placed himself before his exhausted Sovereign, protected him with his sword, and checked the savage impetuosity of the Spanish soldiery, but Kercardo fell while defending the king, who refused to surrender to anybody but the Viceroy of Naples: "Monsieur de-Lannoi," said he, "there is the sword of a king who deserves consideration, since before parting with it, he has employed it in shedding the blood of several of your people, and who is not made prisoner by cowardice, but by a reverse of fortune." Lannoi fell on his knees, received the arms of the king with respect, and kissed his hand, while presenting him with another sword, saying, "I beg your pardon, your Majesty will accept of mine, which has spared the blood of many of your subjects. It is not becoming in an officer of the emperor to behold a king disarmed although a prisoner." Francis was taken to Madrid and held as a prisoner for thirteen