

THE STORY OF THE HURONS.

Champlain begged the chiefs to furnish him with canoes and men to take him to the country of the Nipissings on Lake Nipissing, some distance further north. The request, at first granted, was afterwards denied. The rapids and rocks in the river were dangerous, and the wickedness of the Nipissings was inexpressible.

Champlain urged his claims with all his skill. The young man Vignau had been there; here was his story and a map showing the route he had taken.

The Indians were indignant. Vignau had spent the winter in their lodges. He had not been a mile farther north than they were at that moment. His story was a fabrication, his map an imposture. This proved to be the case. His desire for notoriety had been his undoing; and he had hoped that the difficulties of the journey and the dangers of the trip would have discouraged Champlain, and caused him to return without discovering his falsehood. There was now no good reason for continuing the expedition, and Champlain retraced his steps to Montreal.

Two years later, having spent the intervening period in France, Champlain re-