

out your promises, you will not be showing me good will; nevertheless, if it be inconvenient to give me four canoes, let me have two, with four of yourselves.

*The Council.* We refuse you because of the difficulty and number of the rapids, the ill-will of the tribes, and our fear that you will be lost.

*Champlain.* I would never have believed you could have showed me so little friendship. Why, I have a lad here (pointing to De Vignau) who has been to the country, and he saw none of the difficulties you speak about, nor did he find the people so ill-disposed.

*Tessouat* (after a long pause). Is it true, Nicolas, that you say you have been to the country of the Nipissings?

*De Vignau* (after a long silence). Yes; I have been there.

*Tessouat* (during a tumult in which they all threw themselves upon the man, as if they would cut him and tear him to pieces). You are a shameless liar, Nicolas! You know that you lay down beside me every night; you rose from beside me every morning. If you were among them, it must have been during sleep. How can you be so impudent as to tell your master lies, and so evil-minded as to wish him to risk his life among so many portages? You are a lost man; he ought to kill you more cruelly than we kill our enemies. I don't wonder now that he was so importunate, trusting your word as he did.

*Champlain* (to De Vignau). You must answer these folks; you must describe the country to them, so that I may believe you.

As De Vignau made no reply, Champlain took him aside, begged him to tell the truth, and promised that if he had seen the sea he would give him the stipulated reward; but if not, to say so and end all further trouble. To which with oaths he replied, affirming all he had said before, "which he would prove if they would only lend him canoes;" and the Indians resolved to send a canoe secretly to the Nipissings to inform them of Champlain's arrival, of which the interpreter told his chief. So in further council—

*Champlain.* I have dreamed that you are sending a canoe to the Nipissings, without telling me, which surprises me, because you know how much I wish to go myself.

*The Chiefs.* You offend us much because you trust a liar who wishes you to lose your life, more than so many brave chiefs who are your friends, and value it.

*Champlain.* Why, the man has been in the country, with a relative of Tessouat's, and has seen the ocean, and the wreck of an English vessel, and eighty heads the tribes there have, and a young English boy, a prisoner, whom they wish to give me!