

VOYAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

the country of the Iroquois, who lived in sight of our ocean sea and were on friendly terms with these savages. In fine, they gave me very exact descriptions, showing me by signs all the places where they had been, taking pleasure in recounting all these things to me; and I did not get tired of listening to them, in order to find out from them matters about which I had been uncertain. When all this talk was over I told them that they should trade off the few commodities that they had; which they did.

The next day, after having traded off all that they had, which was little, they made a barricade around their dwelling on the side where the woods were, and said that it was for their safety, in order to avoid being surprised by the enemy; which we took for gospel truth.³ When night came, they called our savage, who was sleeping on my despatch boat, and my servant, and they went to them. After having talked some time they had me called, too, about midnight. When I came to their cabin I found them all seated in council, and they

³Champlain explains, in his narrative of 1613, that he discovered later that these Indians were suspicious of the other Frenchmen and feared they would be attacked. *Voyages of Champlain*, II, 23 and 26.