

the adventurous pioneer, with only five companions and two small canoes, went on a long journey of exploration. He passed with difficulty around the Longue Sault and Carillon Rapids, paddled up the Ottawa to the Rideau Falls and the foaming cataract of the Chaudière, and reached Allumette Island. There he rested for a while before turning back, while all around him was the solitude of vast wilds unbroken by any sounds save those of nature. Champlain imagined much and hoped much, but not even he, with all his visionary expectations of finding a path to the silks and spices of the far East, could have dreamed of this very region one day becoming the home of splendid legislative halls and the seat of government in a great British country. Two years later he organized another expedition against the Iroquois and this time pushed further up the Ottawa until he reached the Mattawa, crossed by a short *portage* into Lake Nipissing and thence descended the French River until the vast expanse of Lake Huron was reached. Upon the shores of Georgian Bay, its great inlet, he collected an Indian force from amongst the palisaded villages of the Hurons which then crowded the rolling and fertile fields of the future County of Simcoe.

EXPEDITIONS AGAINST THE IROQUOIS

In September he led a large war-party by the channel of the Trent to Lake Ontario, crossed it at a narrow point and then, leaving their canoes, his Indians stole like shadows through the brilliant autumnal woods till they came to a well-guarded and palisaded town of the Onondagas. A sudden and wild attack was repulsed, the lessons in skilled warfare which Champlain had tried to give his reckless braves were unobserved, and a second onslaught met with the same result. He himself was wounded, his *prestige* was largely gone and the Hurons became thoroughly disheartened. Reinforcements were awaited but did not come and, five days later, they made haste homeward, carrying with them a leader who was suffering from a sore