

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

this promise that I had kept so faithfully to them confirmed this fact still more. They replied that, as far as they were concerned, they never had thought it so, and that they understood well that all this talk was far from the truth; and that if they had thought otherwise they would not have come; and that it was the others who were afraid, as a consequence of never having seen a Frenchman, except my youth. They also told me that three hundred Algonquins were coming in five or six days, if we wished to wait for them, to go to war with them against the Iroquois, and that if I did not go they would return without doing it. I talked with them a great deal about the source of the great river,² and about their country, concerning which they discoursed in detail, not only with regard to the rivers, falls, lakes and lands, but also the peoples who inhabit it, and what is found there. Four of them assured me that they had seen a sea very remote from their country, and that the path thither was very difficult, not only because of the wars, but also because of the wilderness that it is necessary to cross in order to reach it. They also told me that the preceding winter some savages came from the region of Florida, beyond

²The St. Lawrence.