

espoused the cause of the Ottawa Algonquins, as friends and allies of the Hurons, and started from Quebec with eleven Frenchmen and a flotilla of canoes filled with Indians, to attack the fiercest and ablest of all the Indian tribes or nations. Three-fourths of the native followers early deserted the expedition as the result of a quarrel and he sent back all but two of his own men to Quebec.

Then, with only sixty Indians in his train, but with a dauntless bearing and determination which carried all before him, the "man with the iron breast" proceeded upon his journey into the vast, unknown interior. Over rapids and foaming falls, upon varied rivers and great lakes, through dense forests and a primeval wilderness, the intrepid soldier fought his way. He discovered the Lake Champlain of a later day and upon its shores met the Iroquois in battle. It was a picturesque scene. Here, amid forests centuries old the military civilization of Europe stood for the first time face to face with the not ignoble savagery of America. Champlain, with his steel breast-plate and plumed casque, his matchlock in hand, his sword by his side and his little group of followers behind him quietly awaited the attack of two hundred of the fiercest, tallest and strongest savages of the new world! The war-whoop of the Indians was met by a discharge from the French leader's matchlock which killed or wounded three of the Iroquois braves. This use of lightning to destroy his enemies with was too much for the superstition of the natives and they fled precipitately. Many were killed and some captured and Champlain, for the first time, beheld the tortures of which he had probably heard much and which the Algonquins at once proceeded to inflict upon the prisoners.

During the succeeding year Champlain took another journey and reached the mouth of the Richelieu, where he once more fought and overcame a body of Iroquois who had, in this case, placed themselves inside a barricade which had to be stormed and captured. In 1613,