

THE STORY OF THE HURONS.

Hurons and Algonquins Champlain hoped to open the way to the discovery of territory otherwise inaccessible; and while he gained the antagonism of the Iroquois, he at the same time became indispensable to his allies, and at the close of the first expedition readily accepted their invitation to visit their towns and to aid them further in their wars.

In 1610 Henry Hudson, in an effort to find a north-west passage to the Far East, had discovered Hudson Bay. Shortly afterward one of Champlain's young men, Nicolas de Vignau, was sent to spend a season with the Algonquins in their country up the Ottawa. On his return he told a marvelous tale of finding a great lake at the source of the Ottawa, from which another river flowed northward leading to the sea. Upon the shores of the sea he claimed to have seen the wreck of an English ship, evidently that of Hudson, whose crew had mutinied. This sea was said to be but seventeen days distant by canoe from Montreal.

This direct confirmation of his theory of a shortcut to the Pacific was so