

welcome sight of the broad fields of maize and pumpkins that surrounded the palisaded villages and long bark lodges of the great Huron nation.

Champlain continued his journey to the capital of the Hurons, Cahiagué, near Lake Simcoe, and then followed the devious chain of lakes and rivers till he came out at last on the shore of Lake Ontario. Crossing it to what is now the American shore, Champlain, with a Huron army which had followed him from Cahiagué, pursued his way into the country of the Iroquois.

An attack on one of their towns failed through the uncontrollable rashness and stupidity of the undisciplined Indians. Champlain was wounded, and the crestfallen Indians would not renew the attack but retreated in despondency. They refused to escort Champlain to Quebec, and he found himself obliged to spend the winter with them in the country northeast of the present city of Kingston. He joined his hosts in their deer-hunts, and once lost himself in the forest, in which he wandered shelterless for days and nights. He shared their marches through mud and slush, or on snow-shoes through the snow-clad forests. Finally, he returned to Cahiagué. After settling a quarrel between the Indians and exhorting them to keep peace among themselves, and the alliance with the French, and getting a promise from the Nipissings to guide him to that northern sea which he still hoped to reach, he began his long and circuitous journey homeward.

This was the last of Champlain's long voyages of discovery. He had penetrated into the depths of the wilderness far beyond where any white man had gone before him. He seems to have begun to feel the futility of wasting his time and risking his life in the skirmishing forays of the savages, which led to no result. At all events, he now applied his whole strength to fostering the struggling life of his little colony, whose growth was so weak and slow. At Quebec he lived and worked until his active life, so devoted to New France, closed on Christmas day, 1635. The whole colony mourned with good cause, for the brave leader and true knight who had entered into his well-earned rest.

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