

VOYAGES AND EXPLORATIONS

long time, as the course of this narrative will make plain. He had formerly passed the winter with the savages, and I had sent him to make discoveries in preceding years. He reported to me on his return to Paris, in the year 1612, that he had seen the Northern Sea;³ that the River of the Algonquins⁴ came from a lake that emptied into it, and that in seventeen days' journey one could go and come between the Rapids of St. Louis and the sea. Further, he had seen the wreckage of an English ship that had been lost on this coast, on which there had been eighty men who escaped to the land, whom the savages had killed, because these Englishmen wished to take their Indian corn and other provisions by force; and he had seen their heads,^{4*} which these savages had scalped (according to their custom), which they wished me to see, and also to give me a young English boy whom they had kept for me.⁵ This news delighted me very much, for I thought that I had almost

³La Mer du Nord here refers to Hudson Bay.

⁴The Ottawa.

^{4*}"Les testes qu'iceux sauvages avoient escorchées." See note above, vol. I, 218.

⁵The suggestion for this yarn may have come from some Indian rumor in regard to Hudson's voyage in the years 1610-12. After spending the winter of 1610-11 in the Bay he and eight others