

Champlain found that time had wrought great changes among the aborigines since Cartier's day. Their chief towns of Stadaconé and Hochelaga had passed away, and the section was in possession of another people, more barbarous still, than those encountered by the first explorers of the region. They eagerly sought alliance with the French against their oppressors the Iroquois, who occupied the wilderness to the south of Lake Ontario. Actuated by a very natural desire to stand well with his nearest native neighbors, and expecting by securing the people of one nation as allies, to subdue or awe into neutrality all others disposed to be troublesome, Champlain consented,—perhaps unwisely—and thus the colonists became involved in troubles that lasted more than a century.

In 1609, he first took part with his native allies against their enemies, and as these savages were then entirely unacquainted with the use of fire-arms, when the Iroquois saw their chiefs and warriors fall dead or mortally wounded in such a mysterious manner, they the woods in terror. On this as on several successive occasions, volleys of musketry decided the contest in favor of Champlain's allies.

He now for the first, witnessed their method of treating their prisoners; and shocked at their barbarity, sought leave to put an end to the wretches' tortures; but this could not be allowed till the tormentors had exhausted every device of savage cruelty.

Tidings of the death of Henry IV by foul assassina-