

At this appointed rendezvous a band of Hurons were the first to arrive, paddling their canoes down the dashing surges of the Lachine rapids. They invited Champlain to visit their country, buy their beavers, build a fort, and teach them the true faith. Champlain promised to protect them from their enemies, and went to visit them at their camp on Lake St. Louis, from whence they conveyed him down the rapids in their canoes.

Shortly after this Champlain again went to France, where he remained until the spring of 1613. When he returned to Canada he ascended the Ottawa on another exploring expedition, to which he was lured by the false report of a young Frenchman who had volunteered to winter with the Indians. This young man brought to France a wonderful story of having ascended a northern river from the interior, and having discovered the shore of the eastern sea. Champlain believed him, and hastened to Canada to follow up the welcome discovery. He, with four Frenchmen and two Indians, set out from Mont Royal in two small canoes, which they dragged with great labor up the foaming rapids near Carillon, and reached the calmer stream which sweeps on between high hills to the present capital of Canada. They lighted their camp-fires at night on the shore, passed the snowy cascade of the Rideau, and drew up their canoes below the point where the great caldron of the Chaudière sends up its clouds of boiling spray.

Paddling on over Lake Chaudière they reached at last the settlement of the Ottawa chief Tessouat, with its maize fields and bark wigwams. Here he found, to his great vexation, that the young Frenchman's story was a lie, and that he had never gone farther than the settlement of, Tessouat. Disappointed and disheartened, Champlain returned to Montreal, and, magnanimously leaving the deceiver unpunished, sailed in a trading ship for France.

Two years after this he returned to Canada, and set out once more to explore the region of the Ottawa. He reached the limit of his former journey, and pressed onward, till he reached the shore of Lake Nipissing. After exploring this region he kept his steady way westward until, paddling down French River, he came out on the great expanse of Lake Huron. Exploring its shores for a hundred miles, he left his canoe somewhere near Thunder Bay, and followed an Indian trail through the forest till he met the