

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

like meadows,⁴ where one might sow grain and make gardens. Formerly savages tilled there, but they abandoned them, on account of the usual wars that they had there. There are also a great number of other beautiful meadows, to support as many cattle as one wishes, and all the kinds of trees that we have in our forests at home, with a great many vines, walnuts,⁵ plum trees, cherries, strawberries and other kinds which are very good to eat. Among others there is one very excellent, which has a sweet taste, resembling that of plantains (which is a fruit of the Indies), and is as white as snow, with a leaf like that of the nettle, and running on trees or the ground, like ivy. Fishing is very good there, and there are all the kinds that we have in France, and a great many others that we do not have, which are very good; as is also game of different

‘The place selected by Champlain is now called Pointe à Callières. “It is the centre of the present city of Montreal. The Custom House now stands upon the site he chose, and the Montreal ocean steamships discharge their cargoes there. A little river, now covered in and used for drainage, fell in at that point, and on its banks were the clearings cultivated by the Hochelagans of Cartier before the great war drove them westwards.” S. E. Dawson, *The St. Lawrence*, 262.

⁴Here, *noyers* probably describes butternuts.