

Satisfied with this successful skirmish, and probably fearing speedy vengeance, the party turned their canoes toward home. At the mouth of the Richelieu the expedition broke up, and Champlain sailed for Tadousac.

Champlain soon sailed for France with Pontgravé, where they spent the winter, and early in the following spring returned to Canada. Champlain had various schemes for exploring expeditions ready to carry into action. One of these was to go with the Hurons to see the great lakes and near them the copper mines, which they had promised to show him. They met, accordingly, at a rendezvous on the Richelieu. But while they were preparing for a dance and a feast, a canoe came, swiftly paddled toward them, bearing the news that a battle was going on in the forest between Algonquins and Iroquois. Champlain and his friends pressed on through the forest jungle as best they might, stumbling over fallen trees and entangling vines, wading through swamps, until at last they came to the scene of action.

Champlain was wounded in the battle that followed; but he fought on undaunted, and again won the day for his Indian allies, who rejoiced that a heavy blow had been dealt to their enemies. The tumultuous savages celebrated their success with songs and dances, and then, decorated with ghastly scalps, set out for home in their canoes, without a thought of following up the blow they had struck. Neither did Champlain insist on their guiding him on to the great lakes he had set out to reach. For startling tidings from France seemed, for a time, to drive these projects from his mind.

Henry the Fourth had fallen beneath the dagger of Ravallac. This was sad news for the hopes of Quebec. Champlain must hasten home, to look after the interests of his colony.

When he returned in the following spring he chose a site for a new trading-post at the foot of the beautiful Mont Royal, where he thought he could establish a trade with the great tribes of the interior as they came down from the Ottawa. Not far from the place where had once stood the Indian town of Hochelaga, on a spot now covered by the massive stone warehouses of Montreal, he cleared a site for his trading-post, and built a wall of bricks of his own manufacture, to preserve it from damage by the "ice-shove" in the spring.