

THE STORY OF THE HURONS.

soldiers to fight their battles," says Parkman, "French priests to baptize them, and French traders to supply their increasing wants, their dependence would be complete." This was the policy of Champlain. The Hurons and Algonquins agreed to supply twenty-five hundred warriors; he would join them with all the men at his command; and a vigorous warfare would be opened against the powerful Iroquois. He returned to Quebec to make preparations for the expedition, and on his return he found that Le Caron, with twelve Frenchmen, had left with the Indians on July the first for the Huron country. Champlain, with two others and a party of Hurons, set out eight days later.

Their way as far as the Algonquin village was by the course taken two years before. From this point he advanced until he reached the tributary waters at Mattawa, leading to Lake Nipissing. An outlet at the western end of the lake led into the French River, which carried them to the great fresh-water sea of the Hurons, now known as Georgian Bay. Their course for more than a hundred miles continued south along the eastern shore of Georgian