

among the Indian race, and shortly before the arrival of the first discoverers, the Algonquins, also a powerful but less ferocious tribe, became masters of this part of the country. The long established rivalry between these savage foes, stimulated by this conquest of one of the most coveted hunting and fishing grounds, resulted in a series of almost uninterrupted hostilities, which continued for generations with varying successes. At the time of Champlain's first visit to Three Rivers, very few Indians were to be seen. The Algonquins, and their allies the Hurons, recently terribly beaten by the Iroquois, remained concealed in their forest; only the canoes of the victors appeared on the St. Lawrence, thus rendering the approach to this great highway almost inaccessible. Having been sorely pressed by the Algonquins, who from the days of Cartier showed an amicable disposition toward the French, and also by the Montagnais who traded at the posts in a friendly manner, Champlain, in 1609, undertook an expedition against their mutual foe. Although considered a wise measure at the time, this action on the part of Champlain proved really disastrous. From this simple decision long continued hostilities ensued, a series of serious obstacles to the development of French influence in North America was created, and the slow and difficult progress made by the struggling colony for many years afterwards must mainly be attributed to this cause. In thus openly taking part with their hereditary foes, the vengeance of the Five Nations, which in course of time became such a powerful combination, was aroused against the French, and this enmity was never appeased.

Champlain arrived at Three Rivers on the 1st July 1609, followed by a great many canoes of Algonquins and Hurons, and waited the arrival of his Montagnais contingent before opening the campaign against the Iroquois, which was waged out of the district.