

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

he told us this story, which caused us sorrow.

The next day I went in another canoe to these rapids with this savage and another of our men, to see the place where they were lost, and also to try to recover their bodies. I assure you that when he showed me the spot my hair stood on end, and I was astonished that the dead men had been so rash and so lacking in sense as to pass through so terrible a place when they could go elsewhere; for it was impossible to pass there, for there are seven or eight falls where the water goes down as by steps, the lowest three feet high, and there is an extraordinary seething and boiling. A part of these rapids was all white with foam, and the noise was so great when the air resounded with the roar of the cataracts that it sounded like thunder. After having seen this place, and examined it in detail, we searched along the river for these bodies, while a rather light shallop was going on the other side, and we returned without finding them.