

the object of their attack, near Onondaga Lake ; the site of which is identified by Brodhead with the present town of Liverpool. Being repulsed, they retreated by the same route by which they descended, and Champlain, being unable to obtain guides to take him down the St. Lawrence, returned with them, and found his way to Quebec the next spring by the old portages at Lake Nipissing.

There is only one difficulty with regard to the route, viz., that Champlain mentions five portages below Balsam Lake, some of which, he says, are of four or five leagues, whereas there is only one considerable carrying place of about seven miles. This may have arisen from their not following the main stream, but passing through the Lakes of Belmont and Marmora, and so entering the Trent by Crow River ; a supposition which is rather strengthened by the fact, that the large lake on which they encamped on their return until the ice had formed, and which is clearly Rice Lake, is not mentioned, as if they had already become acquainted with it in descending. The exaggerated length of the portages, however, is no serious objection, as this always occurs in such descriptions—that from Lake Simcoe to Balsam Lake, for instance, being called ten leagues by Champlain, whilst it is really only about fourteen miles. This will not be very surprising to any one who has carried a canoe or a heavy pack through the woods, under which circumstances a mile assumes very formidable proportions. I myself used to frequent a place in those same waters, which was always called and believed to be the three mile portage, but which, having been of late years included in a surveyed township, is found by admeasurement to be somewhat less than a mile and a quarter. These, however, are unimportant details. As to the main course of his journey there can be no doubt ; but the most contradictory accounts of it are given by almost all succeeding historians, and I have found none who relate it correctly, except Brodhead in his history of New York, before mentioned.

The first edition of Lescarbot, published in 1611, cannot, of course, contain any notice of an occurrence in 1615, but it does mention a mythical expedition to Lake Ontario as having been