

nation of some thirty thousand souls, dwelling in palisaded towns with large and well built houses, and subsisting by agriculture as well as by the chase. Over a forest trail, Champlain and his companions passed to the appointed place of rendezvous, Cahiagua, on the narrows of lake Couchiching, near where the pretty village of Orillia now stands. Le Caron, one of the Recollet friars, with twelve Frenchmen had preceded him; and here, in the solitude of the primeval forest, for the first time, were chanted the *Te Deum* and offered the sacrifice of the mass.

At Cahiagua a large war party of two thousand plumed and painted braves was assembled, and several days were spent in feasting, war dances, and other savage pastimes. Sailing with several hundred canoes through Lake Simcoe and up the Talbot River, and traversing the picturesque Balsam, Sturgeon, Pigeon, and Rice Lakes with their intervening portages, they glided down the devious windings of the Otonabee and Trent Rivers, and reached the beautiful Bay of Quinte, now adorned with smiling villages and cheerful farmsteads. Emerging from the placid bay, the Huron fleet entered the broad and blue Ontario, dimpling in the autumnal sunlight. To this, Champlain gave the name, in honour of his sovereign, of Lac St. Louis. Boldly crossing the lake they reached the country of the Iroquois. Hiding their canoes in the forest, they pressed onward some thirty leagues to the Seneca towns near lake Canandaigua.

The Iroquois, attacked in the corn fields—for it was the time of the maize harvest—retired to their town, which was defended with four rows of palisades. The tumultuous onset of the Hurons was ineffectual. They were soon thrown into disorder, and after an unsuccessful attempt to fire the town resolved to retreat. This movement was conducted with greater skill than the attack. The wound-

ed, bound on rude litters, were carried in the centre, while armed warriors formed front, rear, and flanking guards. Denied a promised escort down the St. Lawrence, Champlain, though severely wounded, was compelled to return through the wintry woods with his savage allies, with whom he remained six months, sharing their counsels, their feasts, and their hunts, and hearing strange tales of the vast lakes and rivers of the far West. His arrival at Quebec after a year's absence was greeted almost as a resurrection from the dead.

The same year Champlain brought out his youthful wife, who was received by the Indians with reverential homage as a being of superior origin, and who remained four years in the country. The impolicy of Champlain's Indian wars was soon manifested by the first of those Iroquois attacks which so often afterwards harassed the colony. To strengthen the defences of Quebec, the energetic Governor built a stone fort in the lower town, and on the magnificent heights overlooking the broad St. Lawrence, one of the noblest sites in the world, he began the erection of the castle of St. Louis, the residence of successive Governors of Canada down to 1834, when it was destroyed by fire.

A new misfortune now befell the colony. Charles I., King of England, had made an ineffectual attempt to relieve the heroic Huguenots besieged in Rochelle, and had declared war against France. The conquest of Canada was decreed, and the task was assigned to Sir David Kirk, a Huguenot refugee. In the summer of 1628 he reached the St. Lawrence, burned Tadousac, and sent a summons to Champlain to surrender, who returned a gallant defiance. Kirk, cruising in the gulf, captured the transports of the new company, laden with the colony's winter's provisions.

In consequence of this disaster the sufferings of the French were in-