

will illustrate by a short sketch of the progress of French discoveries on this continent.

Although Jacques Cartier entered the St. Lawrence in the first half of the sixteenth century, it was not till the beginning of the seventeenth that any sustained effort was made towards a permanent occupation of the country. A few trading visits were made from time to time; but at the period of Champlain's first voyage, in 1603, it is doubtful whether there was any establishment even at Tadousac, where parties regularly wintered, and certainly there was nothing beyond. He proceeded up the river as far as the Sault St. Louis, now the La Chine Rapids, and having crossed the portage to obtain a view of the country beyond, he returned to France, and devoted the following years to exploring the Atlantic coast of Maine, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Gaspé. It was not till the year 1608 that he returned to the St. Lawrence, and built the first house at Quebec.

Champlain at once entered into friendly relations with the Indians inhabiting the northern shore of the St. Lawrence. The Montagnets, from Quebec downwards, and higher up the Algonmequins, as he designates them, who were afterwards called Algonquins, together with allied tribes of various names, from the Ottawa country, appear all to have belonged to the great Chippewa family, which still extends over nearly a quarter of the continent. He also fell in with parties of the Ochateguins, or Hurons, as they are subsequently called, their own name for themselves being Yendats, or Wyandots, according to the English pronunciation. It was this tribe apparently that Cartier had found in occupation of the island of Montreal, but their settlements were now exclusively on the great lake which the French called by their name, and they only came down to the St. Lawrence for the purposes of trade. They belonged to the same race as the Iroquois, though at that time at deadly enmity with them. With the Iroquois themselves, called by the English the Five Nations, who occupied the south bank of Lake Ontario and the upper St. Lawrence, no cordiality ever existed, to the end of the French rule in Canada.

The very next spring after his arrival, with two or three companions, Champlain joined the Algonquins and Hurons in an expedition against the Iroquois, and having proceeded up the river Richelieu to the lake which still bears his name, he defeated them near where Ticonderoga now stands. During these earlier years Champlain himself seems generally to have returned to France for the winter, but some of his party remained behind at Quebec, or at another station on the island of St. Croix, and one of them accompanied a party of Algonquins to the upper Ottawa, in exchange for an Indian, whom Champlain took with