

It is a remarkable expedition, moreover, from its boldness, and as being the first example of that spirit of restless enterprize which was characteristic of the French system of colonization, and which presents such a strong contrast to the slow and cautious advances of the early English settlements. To me it has always been especially interesting, as Champlain's route lay through that part of the country where I, more than two centuries later, was one of the first European settlers.

Champlain's narrative is clear and unmisakeable, as all his geographical descriptions are, and if we could misunderstand his words, his map, distorted and imperfect as it is, would leave no doubt as to his route. The Iroquois village which he attacked is laid down on it, and his course is indicated by references to explanatory notes which accompany the map. He started from Montreal, ascended the Ottawa, crossed over by Lake Nipissing and French River to Lake Huron, and then turning to the east, he coasted along till he reached the Huron settlements, between Matchedash Bay and Lake Simcoe. He remained some time at the principal village, whilst his Huron allies were collecting their forces. He calls it Cahiaagué, a name which does not subsequently occur amongst the numerous villages in that confined peninsula, with which the narratives of the Jesuits make us familiar, and the sites of most of which have clearly been identified, during the last two or three years, by my friend Dr. Taché; but there can be little doubt that it is the same as that subsequently called St. Jean Baptiste by the French, which was situated somewhere in the township of Orillia. Carrying their canoes overland to the narrows, they then crossed Lake Simcoe, made the portage to Balsam Lake, and thence through that chain of lakes, which are the scene of some of my pleasantest recollections, they followed the course of the Otonabee and Trent, and emerged into Lake Ontario by the Bay of Quinté. Passing round the lower extremity of Lake Ontario, they landed, and after a four days' march through the woods, in which they crossed the Oswego River, where it falls out of Lake Oneida, they reached the Iroquois village which was