

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

made me sit near them, saying that it was their custom when they wished to make a proposition to assemble at night, in order not to be diverted by looking at things, and that the daylight diverted the mind by things; but, in my opinion, they wished to tell me their wishes in secret, having confidence in me, as they have since given me to understand, telling me that they wanted very much to see me alone; that some of them had been beaten; that they were as well disposed toward me as toward their children, and had so much confidence in me that they would do what I said, but that they were very distrustful of other savages;⁴ that if I should return I might take as many of their people as I wished, provided that they were under the leadership of a chief; and that they sent for me to assure me further of their friendship, which never should be broken, and to beg that I should not be ill-disposed toward them; that knowing that I had made up my mind to see their country, they would show it to

⁴For *des autres sauvages*, the reading, to judge from the more detailed account in the narrative of 1613, should be either *des autres*, i. e., the other Frenchmen, or *des autres pataches*, the other boats, i. e., those belonging to the independent French traders who had followed after Champlain. Cf. Laverdière, *Voyages*, 1613, 251, 257.