

1609. every possible occasion: but by giving arms and ammunition to the Iroquois, with whom Mr. de Champlain had unfortunately embroiled himself in behalf of his allies, they enabled those savages to do us great injury, and compelled us to supply the other Indians with fire-arms, of which good policy required that they should not learn the use. We must, however, do Mr. de Champlain the justice to say, that his intention was solely to humble the Iroquois, in order to succeed in uniting all the nations of Canada to our alliance by a solid peace, and that it is not his fault if circumstances which he could not foresee turned events quite differently from what he had believed.

Champlain's first expedition against the Iroquois.

Be that as it may, he embarked on the river with his allies.¹ He then entered a river, long known as the River of the Iroquois, because those Indians generally descended it in order to make their inroads into the colony, but which now bears the name of Sorel. After ascending it fifteen leagues, he reached the foot of a rapid² which it was impossible to pass in boats. Neither this difficulty, nor the bad faith of the Indians—who had assured him that he could go to the Iroquois without any obstacle—repelled him. He sent back his boat to Quebec, and continued to follow his allies with two Frenchmen, who would not leave him.³

Want of precaution in the warriors.

The rapid passed, they began to advance with a little more precaution. They camped early, and intrenched themselves on the land-side with a strong abatis of trees; for it is not the Indian custom to fortify on the water-side, as they are never attacked in that direction. Care is taken only to arrange the canoes on the bank of the lake or river; and the surprise must be complete indeed, if they have not time to embark and get out of peril before the intrenchment is carried. As soon as they have

¹ He left Quebec with them, May 28, 1609: Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 211. The date is really, however, June. See Laverdière's ed., p. 178.

² Now known as the Chamby Rapids.—*Charlev.* Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 214; Laverdière's ed., p. 184.

³ *Ib.*, p. 217.