

encamped, it is customary to send out scouts, but it is almost entirely for form's sake. The scouts do not go very far; and as soon as they return without seeing any thing all rest very quietly. They never think of putting sentinels at the entrance of the camp, where no one watches. These savages are daily the dupes of this foolish confidence, but they do not correct the error. The Iroquois alone use more circumspection in war, and there is no doubt that it is one of the principal causes of the superiority which they have acquired over the enemies who have never yielded to them in valor, and might easily have crushed them by numbers.

1609.

Champlain in vain warned his allies of the peril to which they exposed themselves by such irregular conduct. All the reply they made him was, that people who had labored all day needed rest at night. Nevertheless, when they thought themselves near the enemy, he induced them to make their scouts more exact in the discharge of their duties, to march only by night, and not light any fires by day. What contributed the more to this security, which so troubled the French, was the confidence of the Indians in their medicine-men, whom Champlain styles Pilotois<sup>1</sup> and Ostemoy. The first thought of the one who accompanied the army was to make a little cabin of skins, as soon as they landed to encamp. He covered it with the same skin that served him as a garment; then he entered it, stark-naked, and the warriors came and ranged themselves around him. He began then to utter words unintelligible to all, said to be a prayer to invoke the god of war. A moment after, he announced that the divinity had come at his call, and made known the information which he had received from him. He at last rose; for all this time he had remained

<sup>1</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), p. 221; Laverdière's edition, p. 187. p. 220. Their first halt was on St. Pilotois is a Basque word: Biard, Teresa Island: Laverdière's edition, Relation (1611), p. 17. The word p. 185.

<sup>2</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), *ostemoy*, given by Lescarbot, *aout-moin*, is Micmac: Laverdière, p. 187.