

came in to the number of sixty warriors. The Algonquins were also in readiness; and all immediately proceeded towards Sorel River, where other Indians had promised to assemble. Champlain followed close, in a bark; but he did not find the number of warriors that he was led to expect.<sup>1</sup> 1609.

He learned at the same time that a party of one hundred Iroquois was not far off; and he was told that if he wished to surprise them, there was not a moment to lose—that he must leave his bark and embark in canoes. He consented. Four Frenchmen followed him; the others remaining to guard the bark. The allies had not paddled for more than half an hour, when they sprang ashore, without a word to the French, and leaving their canoes unguarded, began to run at full speed through the woods. Champlain was greatly embarrassed. He soon lost sight of the Indians, who had not even given him a guide. He had to march through a swampy tract, where he went into the water at every step. Mosquitos and other like insects blinded him and darkened the air, and there was no beaten path. After running some time at hazard, fearing every moment to lose the way, he knew not what course to take, when he perceived an Indian moving in the same direction. He called him and begged him to be his guide.

Some moments after, an Algonquin chief came to beg him to quicken his steps, as they were engaging the Iroquois. He redoubled his speed, and ere long heard the cries of the combatants. Our allies had found the enemy in quite a good intrenchment, and in attempting to force it had been repulsed, with loss. They recovered courage at the sight of the French, and returned to the charge as soon as they came up. The combat became very furious, and Champlain on arriving was struck by an arrow, which pierced the tip of his ear and entered his neck. This wound

The Iroquois are attacked. Their good defence.

<sup>1</sup> Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1613), Sorel with the Montagnais alone, pp. 241-8. Champlain went to the and met the Algonquins there.