

This manœuvre disconcerted the enemy somewhat, and they would perhaps have succeeded in reducing them, had the Hurons done their duty; but their great number had rendered them so presumptuous, that it was never possible for the commander to make them fight in order. Moreover, he was severely wounded in the leg and knee; and this accident having made the Indians pass from an excess of presumption to discouragement, they had to retire with loss and shame.

The retreat was quite well made, and although they were pursued, not a man was lost. The youngest and bravest had placed the weakest and the wounded in the middle, the latter carried in baskets; and in this way they made twenty-five leagues without stopping.¹ Mr. de Champlain was soon cured; but when he wished to start back to Quebec, he could never obtain a guide, as he had been promised, and with whom he could not at all dispense. The Hurons even added insolence to their refusal.² He had therefore to make up his mind to winter with these savages; but no one was better able to adopt his own course or turn all to account. He visited all the Huron towns, and some of those which the Algonquins then had in the neighborhood of Lake Nipissing. He reconciled some neighboring nations with the Hurons; and as soon as the rivers were navigable, learning that they wished him to engage in a new expedition against the Iroquois, he gained some Indians whom he had attracted by his kind manners, and embarking secretly with them and Father Joseph, arrived at Quebec, July 11, 1616,³ where all had given him and the Recollect Father up for dead. While Mr. de Champlain had been engaged in his excursions to learn the condition of the country, Father Joseph

1615.

He is obliged to winter with the Hurons.

¹ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1619), p. 47. July 9: Canada Doc., ii., pp. 1, 3.

Sagard (*Histoire du Canada*, p. 31)

² Ib., p. 48.

says le Caron left the Huron village,

³ Champlain, *Voyages* (ed. 1619), p. 115. The Recollect Memorial says May 20, but does not mention Champlain.