

THE VOYAGE OF
SAMUEL CHAMPLAINE
of Brouage,
made unto Canada in the yeere 1603, dedi-
cated to CHARLES DE MONTMORENCIE,
&c., High Admirall of France

*The Translation published in Hakluytus
Posthumus, or Purchas His Pilgrims.*

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Edited by
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CHAPTER I

Short account describing the voyage from Honfleur, in Normandy, to the Port of Tadoussac, in Canada.¹

We departed from Honfleur, the fifteenth day of March 1603. This day we put into the Roade of New Haven,² because the winde was contrary. The Sunday following being the sixteenth of the said moneth, we set saile to proceed on our Voyage. The seventeenth day following, we had sight of Jersey³ and Garnsey,⁴ which are Iles betweene the Coast of Normandie and England. The eighteenth of the said moneth, we discried the Coast of Britaine.⁵ The nineteenth, at seven of the clocke at night, we made account that we were thwart of Ushent.⁶ The one and twentieth, at seven of clocke in the morning, we met with seven ships of Hollanders, which to our judgement came from the Indies. On Easter day, the thirtieth of the said moneth, wee were encountered with a great storme, which seemed rather to be thunder then winde, which lasted the space of seventeene dayes, but not so great as it was the two first dayes; and during the said time we rather lost way then gained.

The sixteenth day of April the storme began to cease, and the Sea became more calme then before, to the contentment of all the Company; in such sort as continuing our said course untill the eighteenth of the said moneth, we met with a very high Mountaine of Ice. The morrow after we discried a banke of Ice, which continued above eight leagues in length, with an infinite number of other smaller peeces of Ice, which hindred our passage. And by the judgement of our Pilot, the said flakes

¹ The chapter headings in this narrative have been translated and inserted by the editor from Laverdière's text.

² Havre.

³ D'Orgny, i. e., Aurigny; in English, Alderney.

⁴ Guernsey.

⁵ Brittany.

⁶ Ouessant. An island off Cape Finisterre, the westernmost point of Brittany.

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of Ice were one hundred, or one hundred & twenty leagues from the Country of Canada, and we were in 45. degrees and two third parts; & we found passage in 44. deg. The second of May, at eleven of clocke of the day, we came upon The Banke in 44. degrees one⁷ third part. The sixt of the said moneth, we came so neere the land that we heard the Sea beate against the shore, but we could not descrie the same through the thicknesse of the fogge, whereunto these coasts are subject; which was the cause that we put farther certain leagues into the Sea, untill the next day in the morning, when we descried land, the weather being very cleere, which was the Cape of Saint Marie.⁸ The twelfth day following we were overtaken with a great flaw of winde, which lasted two dayes. The fifteenth of the said moneth, wee descried the Isles of Saint Peter. The seventeenth following we met with a banke of Ice neere Cape de Raie,⁹ sixe leagues in length, which caused us to strike saile all the night, to avoide the danger we might incurre. The next day we set saile, and descried Cape de Raie, and the Isles of Saint Paul, and Cape de Saint Laurence,¹⁰ which is on the South side. And from the said Cape of Saint Laurence unto Cape de Raie, is eighteene leagues, which is the breadth of the entrance of the great Gulfe of Canada.¹¹

The same day, about ten of the clocke in the morning, we met with another lland of Ice, which was aboute eight leagues long. The twentieth of the said moneth, we descried an Isle, which containeth some five and twenty or thirty leagues in length, which is called the Isle of Assumption,¹² which is the entrance of the River of Canada. The next day we descried Gachepe,¹³ which is a very high land, and began to enter into the said River of Canada, ranging the South coast unto the River of Mantanne,¹⁴ which is from the said Gachepe sixtie five leagues; from the said River of Mantanne we sailed as far as the Pike,¹⁵ which is twenty leagues, which is on the South side also: from the said Pike we sailed

⁷ It should be two-thirds.

⁸ Cape St. Mary, on the southern coast of Newfoundland on the eastern side of Placentia Bay.

⁹ Cape Ray.

¹⁰ Cape North, Cape Breton Island.

¹¹ The Gulf of St. Lawrence.

¹² Champlain wrote Anticosty. Cartier named Anticosti, *Isle de Assomption*, and apparently that was the name familiar in England in Purchas's time.

¹³ Gaspé.

¹⁴ Matane.

¹⁵ Du Pic. Corrected by Laverdière to du Bic. Bic is 170 miles east of Quebec.

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over the River unto the port of Tadousac, which is fiftene leagues. All these Countries are very high, and barren, yeelding no commoditie. The foure and twentieth of the said moneth¹⁶ we cast anker before Tadousac, and the six and twentieth we entred into the said Port, which is made like to a creeke in the entrance of the River of Saguenay, where there is a very strange currant and tide, for the swiftnesse and depth thereof where sometimes strong windes do blow because of the cold which they bring with them; it is thought that the said River is five and forty leagues unto the first fall, and it commeth from the North North-west. The said Port of Tadousac is little, wherein there cannot ride aboue ten or twelve Ships: but there is water enough toward the East, toward the opening of the said River of Saguenay along by a little hill, which is almost cut off from the maine by the Sea: The rest of the Countrie are very high Mountaines, whereon there is little mould, but rockes and sands full of woods of Pines, Cypresses,¹⁷ Fir-trees,¹⁸ Burch, and some other sorts of trees of small price. There is a little Poole neere unto the said Port, enclosed with Mountaines covered with woods. At the entrance of the said Port there are two points, the one on the West side running a league into the Sea, which is called Saint Matthewes point; and the other on the South-east side containing a quarter of a league, which is called the point of all the Divels. The South and South South-east, and South South-west windes doe strike into the said haven. But from Saint Matthewes Point, to the said Point of all the Divels, is very neere a league: Both these Points are dry at a low water.

CHAPTER II

Kind reception of the French by the great Sagamo of the savages of Canada; their feasts and dances; the war they carry on with the Iroquois; how and of what their canoes and cabins are made; with a description of St. Matthew's Point.

THE seven and twentieth day we sought the Savages at the Point of Saint Matthew, which is a league from Tadousac, with the two Savages whom Monsieur du Pont¹ brought with him, to make report of that

¹⁶ May 24, 1603.

¹⁷ Cedars.

¹⁸ Sapins. Here, a variety of spruces. S.

¹ Du Pont Gravé.

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which they had seene in France, and of the good entertainement which the King had given them. As soone as we were landed we went to the Caban of their great Sagamo,² which is called Anadabijou, where we found him with some eightie or a hundred of his companions, which were making Tabagie,³ that is to say, a Feast. He received us very well, according to the custome of the Countrey, and made us sit downe by him, and all the Savages sat along one by another on both sides of the said Cabine. One of the Savages which we had brought with us began to make his Oration, of the good entertainement which the King had given them, and of the good usage that they had received in France, and that they might assure themselves that his said Majestie wished them well, and desired to people their Countrey, and to make peace with their enemies (which are the Irocois) or to send them forces to vanquish them. He also reckoned up the faire Castels, Palaces, Houses, and people which they had seene, and our manner of living. He was heard with so great silence, as more cannot be uttered. Now when he had ended his Oration, the said grand Sagamo Anadabijou, having heard him attentively began to take Tobacco, and gave to the said Monsieur du Pont Grave of Saint Malo, and to mee, and to certaine other Sagamos which were by him: after he had taken store of Tobacco, he began to make his Oration to all, speaking distinctly, resting sometimes a little, and then speaking againe, saying, that doubtlesse they ought to be very glad to have his Majestie for their great friend: they answered all with one voyce, ho, ho, ho, which is to say, yea, yea, yea. He proceeding forward in his speech, said That he was very well content that his said Majestie should people their Countrey, and make warre against their enemies, and that there was no Nation in the world to which they wished more good, then to the French. In fine, hee gave them all to understand what good and profit they might receive of his said Majestie. When he had ended his speech, we went out of his Cabine, and they began to make their Tabagie or Feast, which they make with the flesh of Orignac,⁴ which is like an Oxe, of Beares, of Seales, and Bevers, which are the most ordinary victuals which they have, & with great store of wilde Fowle. They had eight or ten Kettels full of meate in the middest of the said Cabine, and they were set one from another some six paces, and each one upon a severall

² A Montagnais word, meaning Great Chief, L. The form Sagamore is usual in English writers.

³ See note, p. 23 [133], above.

⁴ Orignac, more commonly, orignal; the Algonquin name for the moose.

fire. The men sat on both sides the house (as I said before) with his dish made of the barke of a tree; and when the meat is sodden, there is one which devideth to every man his part in the same dishes, wherein they feede very filthily, for when their hands be fattie, they rub them on their haire, or else on the haire of their dogs, whereof they have store to hunt with. Before their meate was sodden, one of them rose up, and took a dog, & danced about the said Kettels from the one end of the Cabin to the other: when he came before the great Sagamo, he cast his dog perforce upon the ground, and then all of them with one voice, cried, ho, ho, ho, which being done, he went and sat him downe in his place, then immediately another rose up and did the like, and so they continued untill the meat was sodden. When they had ended their Feast, they began to dance, taking the heads⁵ of their enemies in their hands, which hanged upon the wall behinde them; and in signe of joy there is one or two which sing, moderating their voice by the measure of their hands, which they beate upon their knees, then they rest sometimes, and cry, ho, ho, ho; and begin againe to dance, & blow like a man that is out of breath. They made this triumph for a victory which they had gotten of the Irocois, of whom they had slaine some hundred, whose heads they cut off,⁶ which they had with them for the ceremony. They were three Nations when they went to war; the Estechemins, Algonmequins,⁷ and Mountainers,⁸ to the number of a thousand, when they went to war against the Irocois, whom they encountred at the mouth of the River of the said Irocois⁹ and slew an hundred of them. The war which they make is altogether by surprises, for otherwise they would be out of hart; & they feere the said Irocois very much, which are in greater number than the said Mountainers, Estechemins and Algonmequins. The twenty eight day of the said moneth, they encamped themselves in the foresaid haven of Tadousac, where our Ship was; at the break of day their said great Sagamo came out of his Cabine, going round about all the other Cabins, and cried with a loud voice that they should dislodge to goe to Tadousac, where their good friends were. Immediately every man in a

⁵ Here, apparently, in the sense of scalps.

⁶ "Aux quels ils couperent les testes qu'ils avaient avec eux," etc. On the probable meaning of "testes" in this and other passages descriptive of the Canadian Indians see above, vol. I, p. 217 [105].

⁷ Algonquins.

⁸ The Montagnais.

⁹ The Richelieu, or Sorel River.

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trice tooke down his cabin, and the said grand Captain, first began to take his canoe, & carried it to the Sea, where he embarked his wife and children, & store of furs; and in like manner did well neere two hundred canowes, which goe strangely; for though our Shallop was well manned, yet they went more swift than we. There are but two that row, the man and the wife. Their Canowes are some eight or nine pases long, and a pase, or a pase & a halfe broad in the middest, and grow sharper & sharper toward both the ends. They are very subject to overturning, if one know not how to guide them; for they are made of the barke of a Birch tree, strengthened within with little circles of wood well & handsomely framed and are so light, that one man will carry one of them easily; and every Canowe is able to carry the weight of a Pipe: when they would passe over any land to goe to some River where they have busines, they carry them with them.¹⁰ Their Cabins are low, made like Tents, covered with the said barke of a tree, and they leave in the roofe about a foot space uncovered, whereby the light commeth in; and they make many fires right in the midst of their Cabin, where they are sometimes ten households together. They lie upon skins one by another, and their dogs with them. They were about a thousand persons, men, women and children. The place of the point of S. Matthew, where they were first lodged, is very pleasant; they were at the bottome of a little hill, which was ful of Fir & Cypress trees: upon this point there is a little level plot, which discovereth far off, & upon the top of the said hill, there is a Plain, a league long, and halfe a league broad, covered with trees; the soile is very sandy, and is a good pasture; all the rest is nothing but Mountains of very bad rocks: the Sea beateth round about the said hil, which is dry for a large halfe league at a low water.

CHAPTER III

The rejoicing which the savages make after they have been victorious over their enemies; their disposition, suffering from hunger, ill-will; their beliefs and false ideas; they speak to devils; their clothes, and how they walk on the snow; with their marriage customs and the burial of their dead.

THE ninth day of June the Savages began to make merrie together, and to make their feast, as I have said before, and to dance for the afore-

¹⁰ Cf. above, [vol. I] p. 167 [81].