

[91] CHAPTER VI.

OF THE BAPTISM OF A YOUNG ALGONQUIN MAN.

I DESCRIBED very fully in the Relation of last year the excellent inclinations of this young man, who, as yet only a catechumen, seems already furnished with the very special graces that God grants to those who are washed in the blood of his Son. I shall not be astonished, if, after having so often spoken of the great simplicity of these peoples, there be some one in France who calls in question the good things that we publish about them; since I myself, who see the wonders with my own eyes, can hardly believe them until I reflect upon the greatness of God, *Qui non est personarum acceptor*, who of a shepherd makes a great King and a great Prophet, of a fisher a great Apostle, and of a Savage an Angel of his Church. This young man of whom we speak, when he saw last Autumn that we delayed his Baptism, decided to go away with [92] a company of his people into the depths of their great Forests, to seek for provisions. He had not gone very far when his heart was chilled with fear, which caused him to retrace his steps. "I cannot leave you any more," he said to us, "until I am baptized. When I cast my eyes over the sins I have committed since I have been in the world, and when I represent to myself Baptism as a bath that shall wash them away, I cannot leave those who are to confer so great a blessing upon me; I have resolved to remain here until you