

[3] CHAPTER FIRST.

OF THE SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY, AND OF THE
NAME HURON.

IT is not my intention to repeat here what can be found in the preceding Relations, or in other Books which have already treated of this subject, but only to supply the lack of certain particulars, regarding which I have discovered that some information is desired.

By the term "country of the Hurons" must be understood, properly speaking, a certain small portion of land in North America, which is no longer than 20 or 25 leagues from East to West,—its width from North to South in many places being very slight, and nowhere exceeding seven or eight leagues. Its latitude, in the central part of the country, is found to be forty-five and a half [degrees]; if some in the past have made it a little less, to make these two statements agree, it must be said that those who put it at forty-four and a half, or [4] thereabout, took it in some of the more Southerly neighboring nations, reputed among the number of the Hurons, as we shall relate hereafter.

As for the longitude, it has been, as yet, impossible to establish it according to the Rules of Geography, as they have not been applied similarly in France, and here, to the exact observation of eclipses. The results of the observations made last year are now awaited; and meanwhile we suppose ourselves to be