

## [118] CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE CHRISTIANS OF THIS SAME MISSION OF LA  
CONCEPTION.

LAST year, this Church flourished quite happily for the beginnings of a Church born in the midst of a barbarism which from the creation of the world had none but savage attributes. This year, the number of members has notably fallen off; many have been overthrown to the ground, who at the death of their parents, of their nephews, of their children, and at the ruin of their family, have not had faith enough to endure with courage those blows from the hand of God, but have blasphemed against him. These, seeing themselves more severely dealt with than those who were infidels, have abandoned Christianity,—as if this misfortune had befallen them only through the impotence of God, who had had less power to preserve them from the scourge which was ravaging the whole country, [119] than the demons had for those who took sides with them. We shall learn in eternity the adorable activities of that eye which sees everything, and keeps disposing in this way the orders of its providence; but yet we do not cease to bless it for everything; for if many on these occasions have been faithless to God, we have admired the courage of some who have maintained themselves altogether in their fervor, and have even augmented their zeal at the height of all these squalls.

A good old woman of about seventy years,—of the