

CHAPTER XII.

OF THE SEMINARY OF THE URSULINE MOTHERS.

I HAVE never seen Mothers so solicitous for their children as are Madame de la Pelletrie and the Ursulines for their little seminarists. The love that finds its source in God is more generous and more constant than the tenderness of nature. These good sisters seem to have neither arms nor hearts except to cultivate these young plants, and to render them worthy of the garden of the Church, that they may be some day transplanted into the holy gardens of Paradise.

This good lady's intention was to begin a small seminary of six poor little orphan Savages, the difficulty of getting possession of her property not permitting her [169] to do more. Her heart is much less limited than her means. Instead of six, eighteen have entered this little house. It is true that they have not dwelt there all at the same time; but usually there were six or seven lodged with Madame de la Pelletrie,—three Nuns, and two French girls; and all these in two little rooms, where recently, two more Nuns have entered,³—without counting the little French girls who go to this small Monastery to be instructed; without counting, also, the Savage girls and women who at all hours enter the room where their little compatriots are being taught, and who often pass the night there, when overtaken by bad weather, or detained on some other account. I leave