

## CHAPTER II.

## OF THE RESIDENCE OF SAINT JOSEPH.

THE number of Christians is increasing every day; the rest of the people, who are [18] not baptized, and who have taken refuge in this Village just started, have no alienation from the faith. Prayers are offered publicly; also in cabins, and in houses, and in the chapel the Sacraments are honored. Many are unable to bear upon their hearts any transgression that they consider in the least serious; as soon as they think that they have offended, even slightly, they have recourse to the sacred remedies which God has left to his Church. No public fault is allowed; the Neophytes are strongly bound together with a zeal that one would not have dared to hope for from Savages,—for it is strange how cold these peoples are, and how far removed from our warmth and hasty disposition. But let us come down to more details: *à fructibus eorum cognoscetis eos.*

The most zealous Christians met during this winter, unknown to us, in order to confer together upon the means of keeping themselves in the faith. One of them, in making an address, said that he thought more highly of prayers—it is thus that they speak—than of life, and that he would rather die than give them up; [19] another said that he wished he might be punished and chastised in case he forfeited the word he had given to God; a third exclaimed that he who should fall into any error must be put into