

CHAPTER III.

CONTINUATION OF WHAT OCCURRED AMONG THE SAVAGES OF THE RESIDENCE OF SAINT JOSEPH.

THE Devil, who sees well that the settling down of the roving Savages is the shortest and surer way of their salvation, bends all his energies to destroy that [35] which God has so happily begun. The Savages of the Island, of whom I have spoken above, being upon the point of withdrawing from Saint Joseph, whither they had come for a little time, did not wish to depart on bad terms with our Christians and our Catechumens. They put in operation a scheme which would have done much harm, if God had not given constancy to these good Neophytes; they invited them to a feast, and said to them, that prayer was good, that our doctrine was indeed rather harsh, particularly touching Mariages,—but, as it had been received by some of them, the others might also embrace it in time. They said that, in order to facilitate the matter, and to bring about a closer union with each other, it would be fitting that they should all live together, and that they must choose some place more distant from Kebec than Saint Joseph was, for a thousand reasons which they pleaded; that the Fathers should be with them, to instruct them; and that, by degrees, each one would yield himself to the customs of the French. In short, they expressed a great friendship and a great desire that the Christians should aban-