

[145] CHAPTER IX.

OF THE MISSION OF SAINT JEAN BAPTISTE TO THE
ARENDARONONS.

THE Arendaronons are one of the four nations which compose those whom, properly speaking, we call Hurons; it is the most Eastern nation of all, and is the one which first encountered the French, and to which, in consequence, the trade belonged, according to the laws of the country. They could enjoy this alone; nevertheless, they found it good to share it with the other [146] nations,—retaining for themselves, however, more especially the character of our allies; and on this account inclining to protect the French when some disaster has happened. This is where the late monsieur de Champlain stopped longest on the voyage that he made up here, about 22 years ago; and where his reputation still lives in the minds of these barbarous peoples,—who honor, even after so many years, many excellent virtues which they admired in him, and in particular his chastity and continence with respect to the women. Would to God that all the French who first came to these regions had been like him! we would not so often blush for them in the presence of our Savages, who oppose to us the immodesties and the debauches of several, as if this were an infallible proof, that what we threaten them with, concerning hell, is nothing but fables,—inasmuch as those first Frenchmen whom they knew had no fear thereof.