

[5] CHAPTER I.

OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF CHRISTIANITY IN
THESE COUNTRIES.

OUR Barbarians having enjoyed this year perfect health, and the fruits of a great and prosperous harvest, have not rebuffed us in our visits, nor cast so black looks upon us as in the preceding year. I do not know, nevertheless, which we ought rather to wish them,—adversity, or prosperity; sickness, or health. For, if the healthy do not become wiser in time by one than by the other, some sick ones, at least during their maladies, give us in dying the assurance—or, at all events, the hope—of their happiness.

From the month of June in the preceding year, until the month of November following, our occupation [6] was to keep together the few Christians who had remained with us after the violent storm of the preceding winter; to make some trips to the Missions already begun; and to prepare ourselves for the Missions of the winter.

Towards the middle of Autumn,—having considered our proficiency in the language, and what there was to do among the peoples to whom we had proclaimed the Gospel in the past,—we found that, without doing harm to the five Missions of the preceding year, we could undertake two new ones,—one in the Huron language, and one in the Algonquin; and this last, with the help of two of our Fathers