

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND MISSION OF
SAINTE MARIE.

OF the number of Fathers who were with us in the Huron country at the time of the last Relation, Father Paul Ragueneau, and Father Joseph Poncet went down to Quebec last Summer to spend the Winter there; and, toward the beginning of Autumn, Father Claude Pijart and Father Charles Raymbault came here, on account of [their knowledge of] the Algonquin language; and they complete the same number of [13] thirteen Fathers which we had last year. It is in this House of the Mother of God that at some time in the year we see ourselves all reunited; and we even hope that it may serve as a retreat to the poor Christian Savages, who,—feeling themselves carried away by a torrent of debaucheries, and by the barbarous and infernal customs of their Country, while dwelling in their own villages,—will have a means of escaping shipwreck by taking refuge near us; some of them have already done so, and we shall willingly welcome as neighbors entire families who may wish to approach us, some of whom have given us their word.

At all events, it is a very great consolation to us to see arrive here from two, three, and four leagues' distance on Saturday evenings, a number of our Christians, who dispose themselves in villages very near [the residence], in order to celebrate Sunday