

## [17] CHAPTER III.

## OF THE MISSION OF LA CONCEPTION.

FATHER François le Mercier has had the principal care of this Mission; I have had the satisfaction of accompanying him to it and of often seeing with my own eyes the most pleasing object, and the greatest treasure that we have in these regions,—that is, the first Church which was planted here composed of a small number of Christians who live in the fear of God, and adore him in truth, in the midst of a nation which for five thousand years has recognized only demons as masters. The greater part of these good Christians are found in the chief village of the Mission, which extends over several other villages and hamlets.

It was to this village of la Conception (which bears the name of the whole Mission) that the brave and generous Christian Joseph Chihwatenhwa belonged, of whom there has been so often mention in preceding relations, [18] and whom the Iroquois slew last Summer, having rushed unexpectedly upon him.

Who would not have thought that the whole edifice must fall into ruin after the apparently so disastrous death of him whom all, unbelievers as well as Christians, regarded as the pillar and column of this little rising Church? and upon whom, in truth, we had looked as an Apostle of this country, since—existing only for the glory of God, having love only for him,