

[155] CHAPTER XI.

OF THE FORTIFICATIONS COMMENCED ON THE RIVER
OF THE HIROQUOIS, AND OF THE WARS
OF THOSE PEOPLES.

MONSIEUR the Chevalier de Montmagny, our Governor, having learned that his Majesty and his Eminence were sending out men to fortify the country, at once caused the framework of a House to be prepared, even before the ships that were to bring the workmen made their appearance,—strongly suspecting that, if he waited for their arrival, it would be impossible to lodge them before the Winter at the spot where these fortifications were to be erected. While the carpenters were working at Kebec, he ascended forty leagues higher, visited the River of the Hiroquois, and marked a most suitable site for the erection of a Fortress, which should command the mouth of that river by which it is discharged into the great river of Saint Lawrence. He caused the barks bearing what was [156] needed for the purpose to be sent up the river. Hardly had he commenced than the Hiroquois tried to stifle the project at its birth, as I shall shortly relate, when I shall have spoken of what those Barbarians did during the Winter, and even again in the Spring, to come to their petty wars on the Island. I say “petty,” because they come by bands and by surprise; but this is so harassing, that there is no battle we would not wage rather than see ourselves