

[6] CHAPTER FIRST.

OF THE GENERAL STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

THE first ship that arrived this year at Kebec caused a false alarm, and clouded the joy to which the arrival of the Vessels usually gives rise in the hearts of the French and of the Savages. The Provision fleet, it was said, had been defeated by the Dunkirkers, and Monsieur de Courpont, who was crossing the Channel at the same time, had been captured or sunk; and it was told that all the crew had been killed or made prisoners. This news caused great sorrow to every one; but, when it was learned that all the ships had arrived safely, the satisfaction was all the sweeter that the sadness had been more deeply felt. The entire Colony has enjoyed good health during the winter. Monsieur the Chevalier de Montmagny, our Governor, ever kind and ever beloved, maintains all things in peace, quiet, and good order. Every one is pleased to honor and respect him. If any one be [7] dissatisfied, it is because his inordinate self-interest and passions torment him. We have no other enemies here but ourselves; the rest does not amount to much. Lawsuits, ambition, avarice, lust, the desire for revenge,—which are the evil spirits of Europe,—are rarely seen here; our forests are not suitable for lighting their fires.

The cereals have proved very successful; some residents now harvest more than they require for the food of their families and of their cattle, which thrive