

[46] CHAPTER IV.

OF SOME BAPTISMS IN THE RESIDENCE OF
SAINT JOSEPH.

WE have baptized about one hundred persons this year. If the number be not as great as in the previous one, it is not surprising; for most of the Savages in this residence are already Christians, and the Hiroquois effectually prevent the people living inland from coming to join these good Neophytes. They have frightened away a good part of the Algonquins who were at the three rivers; but the fortifications that have been commenced there may bring them back. Let us begin our relation. A man of some consideration among the Savages had been instructed in the faith, and ardently desired Baptism. When he saw that it was delayed in order to test his sincerity, he addressed the Father and spoke to him as follows: "Why do you put off my Baptism till the spring? Your ideas are not right. You again throw me into the snares and nets [47] of the Demons. The time of our hunt is approaching, and I am going into the woods to get my supply of Elk meat. The Devil, seeing very well that I am not yet a child of God, will attack me once more and will urge me strongly to resume my former superstitions and the evil things that I now abhor. What means have I to resist him, alone? I shall inevitably fall, if I have not God for my Protector, and I can have him only by my Baptism. Why,