

CHAPTER XIII.

CONTINUATION OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY CROSS
AT TADOUSSAC.

WE cultivate this poor little vine during the summer in order that it may bear fruit during the winter. That is to say that a Father of our Society goes to that quarter as soon as the tribes are gathered there, for the purpose of instructing them until they start on their great hunting and fishing expeditions for Beaver, Elk, and the other animals that serve as their food. In winter, they eat the meat; and in summer they sell the skins to the French who come to these countries to trade.

As soon as the course of the river was free and the ice no longer barred its passage, a party of savages from Tadoussac came to Kebec in a shallop, to ask for and [230] take back a Father with them, both to hear the confessions of the new Christians, and to instruct those who were not yet Christians,—in a word, to teach them the way to Heaven. They were given Father Jean Dequen, whom they placed in their boat, and took away with them as soon as they could, on account of the illness of a Captain who did not wish to die without baptism. This man did not properly belong to Tadoussac. Two years ago, the Christians recently regenerated in the blood of Jesus Christ had made him a present, for the purpose of