

[23] CHAPTER II.

OF THE HOUSE AND MISSION OF SAINTE MARIE.

ALTHOUGH this House is not the usual residence of the Fathers of our Society who are here in the Huron country, it is nevertheless the place to which they repair from time to time, after the work of the Missions, in which otherwise they could not live.

Not only has the aid from Kebec and from France that we asked for last year failed us, but, out of fourteen that we were, Father Isaac Jogues and Father Charles Raimbaut went down to Kebec; the former fell into the hands of the enemies, and the latter was carried off by a natural disease. Thus our number was reduced to twelve, ten of whom found employment in the Huron and Algonquin Missions; and the care of this House fell to the share of the only two who remained, Father François le Mercier and Father Pierre Chastelain.

[24] This House is not only an abode for ourselves, but it is also the continual resort of all the neighboring tribes, and still more of the Christians who come from all parts for various necessities,—even with the object of dying there in greater peace of mind, and in the true sentiments of the Faith. We have, therefore, been compelled to establish a hospital there for the sick, a cemetery for the dead, a Church for public devotions, a retreat for pilgrims, and, finally, a place apart from the others, where the infidels—who