

CHAPTER III.

OF THE MISSION OF LA CONCEPTION AMONG THE
ATINNIAWENTAN.

I T seems that God intends to establish his Church in these barbarous countries solely by the same ways which have given birth to the Faith throughout the remainder of the earth. I mean to say that to be an excellent [36] Christian, and to be at the same time in the ordeal of sufferings, are two inseparable things. We have observed this particularly in this Mission, where God has been pleased to take away from us, one after the other, those whom he had best formed according to his own heart; where the most Christian families are decimated; where poverty assails them, and they lack everything but faith, which alone sustains them, and which grows in proportion as their sufferings increase.

“I think,” said one day to us, in regard to this, a young man who was almost the only one left of a large family of Christians, whom death or war had removed from this Church, “I think,” said he, “that God wishes to see whether our Faith is truly sincere, and whether we desire any other thing from him but Paradise. He has taken away from me, one after the other, all the assistance of my relatives; and, in order to try me to the end, he has recently permitted the head of our family, the sole support that was left us, and all our goods, to fall into the hands of the Iroquois. I complain to him, or rather