

## CHAPTER FIRST.

## OF THE GENERAL STATE OF THE MISSION.

**G**OD be praised in time and in Eternity; the blood shed for JESUS CHRIST in the country of the Iroquois—mingled with the prayers and vows of so many holy souls, who are interested in the spread of his Kingdom in the new World—has finally brought us Peace with those Barbarians. Father Isaac Jogues and Father François Bressani, on their return, embraced as friends those who [3] had lacerated their bodies, torn out their nails, and cut off their fingers,—in a word, those who had treated them as tigers would. This event was due to Heaven; we shall presently see how it came to pass. This is a wide gateway opened for Crosses and to the Gospel in many very populous Nations, provided we can maintain Evangelistic laborers there. While Monsieur the Chevalier de Montmagni, our Governor, was treating for this Peace with his usual prudence, the country possessed another blessing, which came to its knowledge only when the ships arrived. The Gentlemen of the Company of New France, wishing to procure the conversion of the Savages, and to increase the French Colony, returned into His Majesty's hands the traffic in Furs that he had granted them,—being fully aware that the strength of the French would be the support of the new Churches that we endeavor to beget to JESUS CHRIST at this extremity of the World. Now as