

CHAPTER IX.

OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY GHOST AMONG THE
NIPISSIRINIEN ALGONQUINS.

ALTHOUGH the Huron language is very widely spoken and is common to a number of peoples whom Faith has never enlightened, nevertheless it is so concentrated in the midst of a multitude of Tribes,—scattered here and there, to the East, to the West, to the North, and to the South,—who all speak the Algonquin language, that the tribes of the Huron tongue almost seem to be only at the center, as it were, of a vast circumference filled with Algonquin tribes. Consequently, our trouble is not to find employment here, but rather, considering our small number of laborers, in deciding where it were better that we should apply our labor.

[129] In concluding the Relation of last year, I said that Father Claude Pijart and Father René Menard had embarked a few days before with the Nipissiriniens, in order to continue instructing them in their own country, which is distant about seventy leagues from the place where we are. They remained there from the month of April to the month of September; or, rather, during all that time they followed those homeless people in the woods and on the rivers, over the rocks and across the lakes,—having for shelter but a bark hut; for flooring, but the damp earth or the slope of some uneven rock, which served