

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY GHOST.

FATHER Claude Pijart and Father Leonard Gareau, who had wintered with the Algonquins on the shores of our great lake, and in the midst of the snows which cover these countries more than four or five months, followed those same tribes throughout the Summer, upon the bare rocks which they inhabit, exposed to the heat of the Sun; and thus spent with them almost all the past year.

[103] God chose to signalize the beginning of their expedition by a favor which he showed them, in withdrawing them both from the gates of death. They had left us at the end of the month of November; after four or five days' journey,—in which they had to combat the winds, the snows, and the ice, which was beginning to form in every direction,—they saw themselves constrained to leave their canoe, still distant more than three leagues from the place where they were aiming to land. They cast themselves upon those pieces of ice, which for a time sustain them with sufficient firmness: but what assurance is there upon a pavement so faithless? In a moment everything breaks beneath their feet, and they find themselves in a bottomless depth of water. The earth failing them, they have recourse to Heaven, and to the assistance of the most Blessed Virgin. At this same moment, a young man, one of our domestics, who accompanied them, and one of their