

## [116] CHAPTER VIII.

## OF WHAT OCCURRED AT MISKOU.

TWO families of Christian Savages, composed of sixteen persons, were during last year settled in this place, in two separate houses, built in the French fashion; a third, more numerous, came to find us at the beginning of September, on purpose to enjoy the same blessing; and some others have promised us to follow this one as soon as possible. Several individuals, moreover, have received Holy Baptism in extreme necessity, in this manner. The first day of May, Father André Richard had started from Nepiguit in a shallop, accompanied by two Frenchmen and a family of Savages. The fine weather and the rapid departure of the ice had led to the belief that the whole coast would be free; as, in fact, he found it even up to the entrance of the Harbor of Miskou, which he saw closed with a great bank of ice. There was no way of return; the wind, which had veered furiously to the Northwest, was stopping the shallop and surrounding it meanwhile with countless blocks of ice, [117] against which it was necessary continually to struggle. The night comes on, and, consequently, an evident danger of losing life. One of the Savages—who was not yet baptized, although sufficiently instructed—asks for Baptism; the Father grants it to him; then all with a common consent have recourse to God by the intervention of Our Lady, to whom they make a vow to