

[176] CHAPTER IX. [i.e., x.]

OF THE MISSION OF THE ASSUMPTION IN THE COUNTRY
OF THE ABNAQUIOIS.

THE Abnaquiois having come to ask for a Father of our Society, to take him into their country, and to learn from him the way to Heaven, Father Gabriel Dreuilletes was granted to them, as has been remarked in the Relation of the preceding year. He started from saint Joseph, or the residence of Sillery, on the twenty-ninth of August, conducted by a squad of Savages. I say nothing of the difficulties which must be experienced in a journey of nine or ten months,—in which one encounters rivers iron-bound with rocks, and the vessels which carry you are only of bark; wherein the perils of life recur oftener than the days and the nights; wherein the cold of Winter changes a whole country into snow and ice; where it is necessary to carry one's house, one's living, and one's provisions; where you have no other company than that of the Barbarians, as far removed from our usages as the earth [177] is removed from the Heavens; where bodily strength, with which they are abundantly provided, triumphs over all the beauties of the spirit; where there is found neither bread nor wine, nor any food of the kinds which are commonly used in Europe; where one might say that all the roads lead to Hell, so frightful are they, and yet they lead to Paradise those who love the Crosses with which they are strewn. It