

CHAPTER VI.

OF SOME OTHER GOOD ACTIONS OF THE
SAVAGES.

I MAKE no distinction between the Savages of saint Joseph and the Savages of three Rivers.

Both have an affection for the spots that they have selected as dwelling-places; but their enemies pursue them so closely that, like frightened pigeons, they fly to the first and safest dovecot that they [80] find. Some families, seeing this breaking-up, stopped at three Rivers, with the intention of always living in the French fashion. The most notable among them said to one of our Fathers, on the departure of his countrymen: "I could flee as well as the others, and live as they do, by fishing and hunting; but my soul is dearer to me than my body. I see very well that I shall suffer, and that, as I have nothing but corn, I shall have to sow and harvest with much labor. I shall lead a very poor existence; but never mind,—while my body will fast, my soul will fatten by eating the bread of life, of which I would be deprived for a still longer time, were I to wander from your settlements." These good people were blessed in every way; the earth, the forests, and the waters have supplied them with food beyond their expectations, and Heaven has showered its wealth upon them. Last Spring, their Captain dictated two letters to an Interpreter, to be sent to Quebec to a Father of our Society, in which that good Neophyte