

[262] CHAPTER XV.

OF THE SETTLEMENT AT MISKOU.

THE Island of Miskou is about 7 leagues round; it is situated in the great Gulf of saint Lawrence, upon the 48th degree of latitude and the three hundred and seventh of longitude. Its soil is not good; the waters are not wholesome there; the woods there are neither as tall nor as beautiful as on the mainland; it abounds in partridges and in hares; there were formerly Elks, but they have all been exterminated. It seems that it is important only for the trade in Elk skins; these are obtained in abundance from the Savages who inhabit three great bays of the mainland, not far distant from this island. Fishing is plentiful there; cod are found in abundance, and every year, as also in the neighboring harbors, many ships are laden with these fish, carrying them to France, Portugal, Italy, and many other regions.

We began, in the year 1635, to build a settlement there; and Fathers Charles Turgis and Charles du Marché were sent thither [263] in order to administer the Sacraments to twenty-three Frenchmen who were to lay its foundations, and to observe the prospects that we might have for the conversion of the Savages. Sufferings were almost the only occupation of all these poor people; sickness prostrated them, and death removed a great part of them. Father du Marché was constrained to return to France;