

[5] CHAPTER I.

SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY OF THE HURONS; OF
THEIR ALLIES, AND OF THEIR ENEMIES.

ALTHOUGH in previous Relations we have been able to throw some light on the situation of a portion of these countries, nevertheless I have thought that it would be expedient to give here, briefly, a clearer and more general idea of them,—both because time has enabled us to obtain surer information respecting them; and because, in the following Chapters, we have to speak of various things that presuppose such knowledge.

The country of the Hurons lies between the forty-fourth and forty-fifth degrees of Latitude, and the Longitude is a half-hour more to the West than Quebec.

On the Western side, in Summer, they come to a Lake whose circuit is nearly four hundred leagues, which we call the fresh-water Sea. It has a certain rise and fall of tide, and, at the extremity farthest [6] from us, communicates with two other Lakes which are still larger and of which we shall speak in the tenth Chapter. This fresh-water Sea contains a number of Islands; one, among others, is nearly sixty leagues long.

To the west-southwest,—that is to say, almost at the West,—lies the Tobacco nation, which is only about twelve leagues distant from us.

To the South, and a little toward the West, we