

CHAPTER II.

OF THE GENERAL STATE OF THE MISSION.

I MAY say that this country has never been in such deep affliction as we see it now, and that never has the Faith appeared to greater advantage. The Hiroquois, the enemies of these people, continue to wage a bloody war against them that destroys our frontier villages and causes the others to dread a similar misfortune. At the same time, God peoples these poor desolate Tribes with excellent Christians; and he is pleased to establish his holy Name in the midst of their ruins.

Since our last Relation, we have baptized nearly thirteen hundred persons; but what consoles us the most is to see the fervor of these good Neophytes, and a spirit of Faith in them that savors naught of [11] barbarism, and causes us to bless God's mercies which spread so abundantly, from day to day, to the outer confines of this new world.

Almost the whole of last Summer was passed in expectations and alarms of a hostile army of the Hiroquois, our neighbors; that was the reason why the Hurons did not go down to Quebec, but remained to defend their threatened country. They also feared another army of the Annieronnon Hiroquois, who lay in ambush for them on the way, had they gone down the River. Thus we received last year no assistance, and not even a letter, from Quebec or from France. Nevertheless, God has supported us;