

## CHAPTER V.

## OF THE MISSION OF SAINT MATTHIAS.

HERE lay the second Mission that we possessed in the Tobacco Nation. Since the death of the two Fathers of whom [67] we have spoken, a scarcity of workers obliged us to maintain only one Mission throughout those Mountains,—thereby overburdening the two other Fathers who remained there with the care of the poor desolated Churches that had so recently lost their Pastors. After a time, we were even constrained to leave one only of those two Fathers to carry on the entire Christian work,—one of them having been seized with a malady which obliged us to recall him to quarters where he could receive a little more assistance.

Among the great hardships of these Missions, exposed to every evil of which Nature has the most horror, it is not one of the least heavy of the Crosses to find oneself alone in a Church which is dispersed, and was born but yesterday; to find oneself overwhelmed from morning to night by a crowd of Catechumens and Christians,—some needing baptism, others Confession, and, most of them, instruction in the Prayers and Catechism, and the Mysteries of our Faith; unbelievers requiring to be awakened to the concerns of their salvation,—all to be sought out in the deserted cabins, where [68] poverty itself resides, but where the spirit of the Faith is not less divine than in the Louvres and most superb Palaces of Europe.