

[78] CHAPTER VII.

OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY GHOST.

THIS Mission was established for the Nations speaking the Algonquin tongue, who have—as little as the fish, by taking which they subsist—no certain abode along the coasts of the great Lake, where they dwell sometimes in one place, sometimes in another, conformably to the different seasons of the year; or according as fears of the Iroquois compel them to move farther away from the peril which every day threatens them. This means that our Fathers who have had the care of that mission have led a wandering life among this wandering people, and have lived almost always on the water, or on desolate rocks beaten by the waves and storms. But everywhere God has made himself known to them, being no less the God of the Seas than the God of the land. Many of these wandering nations took fire, a year ago, at the words of the Gospel; many have become Christians and received holy Baptism,—even their Captains, who had never been willing to receive instruction. The following [79] was written to me by the Father who had the care of that Mission last Winter. “I bless God,” he says, “for the diligence with which these good people come to pray to him. I admire their innocence, and disregard of temporal interests; they ask nothing from me, and I have not wherewith to give them.”

The barbarians are not so barbarous as, in France,