

[105] CHAPTER X.

OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH AT SILLERY.

THIS Church has not been exempted from the calamities which, like a torrent, have overwhelmed the poor country of the Hurons. They wrote to us from Europe that misfortunes are so universal that they could almost say that the pillars of the Universe are being shaken. We have this consolation, in our own miseries, that our belief is very often our great crime; and that war, undertaken against a barbarous Nation is almost changed into a Holy war. For the greater number of our Christians have not taken up arms for some time, except for the preservation of Christianity in our new Churches. Now, as Crosses form the foundation of Religion, and as God has never destroyed his Church by persecutions, we hope that wars, famines, [106] and martyrdoms, which are peopling the Church triumphant of our good Christians, will not swallow up these poor Churches which are militant and suffering. Streams that hide themselves under the earth are not lost; they burst out from it, to the astonishment of those who are ignorant of their source and origin. But let us begin with our subject.

A band of Christians from saint Joseph having joined, this Spring, some Savages of Three Rivers, and a few Hurons,—with the design, as they say, of cutting off the feet of some of their enemies, so as to prevent these from coming to disturb them at their