

[142] CHAPTER XII.

OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY CROSS AT TADOUSSAC.

THE Father who last year had the direction of this Mission says in his Memoirs that what he has observed in it as most noteworthy relates to the burning zeal which the Christian Savages and their Captains have manifested for the extension of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the banishing of vice from their new Church.

Here are some examples. This good Father having come to visit them after Easter, they asked to be allowed to venerate the holy Cross as the Christians of St. Joseph had venerated it during holy Week. "It ought not to be," they said, "that, because we have been deprived of Priests throughout this holy Season, we should be debarred, besides, from this memorial of the death of our Redeemer." During eight days, they prepared themselves for this favor,—going to confession twice, as is their usage when they pass some [143] months without being able to approach that Sacrament. They held a public and universal fast; and on a Friday they offered reverence to Jesus Christ dying, with such emotions of piety and devotion, that the French, who assisted at the holy ceremony, could not sufficiently admire the fervor of these good Neophytes.

Some—touched with regret at having offended God by having allowed themselves, on former occasions, to be beguiled by the intoxicants which the