

[1] Preface.

THE Events—disastrous, yet glorious—of the Missions of new France, a country of North America, have hitherto been known only within the limits of Old France, having been written every year in the French language alone. Nevertheless, as they are worthy of being known everywhere, they deserve to be translated into some language which might be understood where French is not current.

This has been, and is, the desire of many, full of zeal and of Devout curiosity to know the progress of the Faith in those new countries. And to gratify them, I have thought, for some time past, of composing on the subject a latin history, fairly exact.¹⁶ But, as that work still requires much time, and the reasonable solicitations of so many deserve some satisfaction, I have allowed myself to be led—without prejudice to the history, which shall be written more generally and at greater length—to make a sketch thereof at once; or, rather, to give an essay thereon, with as great simplicity and brevity as possible. I do not claim to speak of everything, but only to afford a somewhat rough conception,—particularly of the Mission of the Hurons, which we have been forced to abandon, speaking, in passing, of what pertains to the others. I shall divide the whole into three parts: the first will be concerned with nature, the second with grace, the third with