

CHAPTER II.

OF THE HURON, ALGONQUIN, AND PAPINAKIOIS MISSIONS.

THE wisdom of God, who ever derives good from evil, turns to the profit of a very large number of savage tribes the overthrow and dispersion of the Huron Church, whose scattered members serve to bear throughout all Canada the torch of the Faith whereby they themselves have been enlightened.

However great the apparent aversion of the Iroquois to the Gospel, it is preached and its maxims are preserved among [11] them. The Huron captives, whom they hold in very large numbers, know how to find the liberty of the children of God in the midst of those barbarians, not only making open profession of our holy Religion, but even forming little flocks of Jesus Christ in outlying cabins, where they assemble to offer their prayers, and engage in all the other Christian observances that can be executed without Priest or Pastor.

A French Gentleman who was captured this last Summer by the Iroquois and taken to Agnié, and who has since then been set free, renders signal testimony to the virtue of these blessed captives. They exhorted him by signs to join his sufferings to those endured by the Savior [12] on the Cross; they rendered him all imaginable good offices, fearlessly exposing themselves to the most cruel death for the sake of aiding him; and, in short, they constantly