

[58] CHAPTER VI.

DIARY OF THE SECOND JOURNEY OF A FATHER OF THE
SOCIETY OF JESUS TO LAKE SAINT BARNABÉ.

FATHER Henry Nouvel, first Pastor of that infant Church which he planted a year ago, having made ready to go and cultivate it this last Summer, embarked with some Frenchmen, and reached without mishap the mouth of the Manicouagan river in the month of June.

The Papinachois, who were to have awaited them at Tadoussac, being obliged to depart thence sooner than they expected, had already withdrawn to the interior. Hence our Frenchmen were forced to attempt the well-nigh impossible—undertaking, with no guide and [59] without aid from the Savages, to ascend a very dangerous river, passing fearful rapids, chasms, and precipices.

After almost losing their way in those frightful forests, they still persevered—the Father having said Holy Mass on a tree overturned by age—in bravely pursuing their undertaking, even carrying for half a league, by very difficult paths,—laden, as they were, with their baggage,—the canoe which had carried them.

At length they saw certain marks painted on the tree-trunks by some of the Savages whom they were seeking, who had recently passed that way. At this discovery, they hoped soon to gain tidings of them, and fired several musket-shots at different