

[41] CHAPTER III.

OF THE MISSIONARY'S ARRIVAL AND SOJOURN AT
THE BAY OF SAINT ESPRIT, CALLED
CHAGOUAMIGONG.

“ **A**FTER coasting a hundred and eighty leagues along the Southern shore of Lake Tracy,—where it was our Lord's will often to test our patience by storms, famine, and weariness by day and night,—finally, on the first day of October, we arrived at Chagouamigong, whither our ardent desires had been so long directed.

“ It is a beautiful Bay, at the head of which is situated the great Village of the Savages, who there cultivate fields of Indian corn and lead [42] a settled life. They number eight hundred men bearing arms, but are gathered together from seven different nations, living in peace, mingled one with another.

“ This large population made us prefer this place to all others for our usual abode, that we might apply ourselves most advantageously to the instruction of these infidels, build a chapel, and enter upon the functions of the Christian religion.

“ At first, we could find shelter only under a bark roof, where we were so frequently visited by these people, most of whom had never seen any Europeans, that we were overwhelmed; and my efforts to instruct them were constantly interrupted by persons going and coming. Therefore [43] I decided to go in person to visit them, each in his cabin, where