

[63] CHAPTER VI.

RELATION OF THE MISSION OF SAINT ESPRIT ON LAKE
TRACY.

AFTER a hard and fatiguing journey of five hundred leagues, during which all kinds of hardships were encountered, the Father, after pushing on to the head of the great Lake, there found opportunity, in founding the Missions of which we are about to speak, to exercise the zeal which had made him eagerly undergo so many fatigues. Let us begin with the Mission of Saint Esprit, which is the place of his abode. He speaks as follows:

“This part of the Lake where we have halted is between two large Villages, and forms a sort of center for all the nations of these [64] regions, because of its abundance of fish, which constitutes the chief part of these peoples’ sustenance.

“Here we have erected a little Chapel of bark, where my entire occupation is to receive the Algonkin and Huron Christians, and instruct them; baptize and catechize the children; admit the Infidels, who hasten hither from all directions, attracted by curiosity; speak to them in public and in private; disabuse them of their superstitions, combat their idolatry, make them see the truths of our Faith; and suffer no one to leave my presence without implanting in his soul some seeds of the Gospel.

“God has graciously permitted me to be heard by more than ten different Nations; but I confess that