

CHAPTER II.

OF THE MISSION OF SEPT ILES.

UNDER the name of Sept Iles is comprised a region on the North shore, more than a hundred leagues distant from Quebec, as one descends the Saint Lawrence River. There may indeed be seen seven islands, which are composed only of rocks,—very sterile, and having but stunted shrubs for covering. The largest of the islands is less than two leagues in circumference; and that nearest to the land is only a good league distant therefrom. They are, however, quite noted, on account of the concourse of Savages, who, after hunting in the forests on the mainland, resort from time to time to a river quite near these islands, in order to trade with the French who are drawn thither by commerce.

That region is properly the country of the tribes whom we call Oumamiois; their language takes its origin from that of the Tadoussac Savages, although it has many more words and a greater range of idioms.

Those Savages are naturally good, and very tractable; they manifest a disposition very favorable to Christianity, for although they have only heard of the Faith through their neighbors' talk, they eagerly desire to be themselves instructed, and to have among them one of our Fathers.

They are not very distant from the Esquimaux; their neighbors among those tribes toward the south are not so fierce as are the hordes of the same name