

PERILS
OF THE
OCEAN AND WILDERNESS.

CHAPTER I.

THE SHIPWRECK OF FATHER CHARLES LALEMAN, PHILIBERT NOYROT
AND OTHERS, OFF CAPE BRETON.

THE writer of the following letter was one of the most eminent of the early Jesuit missionaries in Canada, where several others of his family were distinguished, and one, the illustrious Father Gabriel Lalemant, died a martyr to his zeal for the conversion of the Indians.

Father Charles Lalemant, a son of the Sieur Lalemant, *Lieutenant Criminel* of Paris, was born in that city in 1587. He entered the Society of Jesus at the age of twenty, and was soon followed by his two brothers, Jerome and Louis, the latter a celebrated ascetical author. Father Charles was one of the missionaries at the colony of St. Saviour's, on Mount Desert Island, in Maine, in 1613, and was there taken prisoner. He was subsequently Rector of the College at Paris, but was again sent to Canada, in 1625. Two years afterwards he returned to France for supplies, but, on reaching the mouth of the St. Lawrence, in the summer of 1629, the captain learned that Quebec had been taken by the English. In endeavoring to sail back, the vessel was lost. Father Lalemant thus describes the shipwreck, in a letter to his Superior. We translate from the French, as published by the illustrious Champlain, in the edition of his voyages which appeared at Paris in 1632.