

CHAPTER FIFTH.

DEATH OF FATHER JEAN DE BREBEUF, AND FATHER
GABRIEL LALLEMENT.

IT appeared that God had determined to put an end to the Mission of the Hurons at the same time as to the life of him who had begun it; this was, as we have said, Father Jean de Brebeuf, at whose death began the irreparable ruin of this nation. The faith had already taken possession of almost all the country; public profession of it was made everywhere; and not only private persons, but the chiefs themselves, were at once its sons and protectors. The superstitious rites [108 i.e., 110] which were formerly of more than daily occurrence, so began to lose credit that an infidel who asked for one of them by way of remedy for an ailment of his, in the village of la Conception, could never, prominent though he was, obtain his end. Persecutions against us had already ceased; cursings against the Faith had been changed into blessings: I could almost say that the people were already ripe for Heaven; and yet it required the scythe of death to place them in the safe granaries of Paradise. This has been our only consolation in the universal desolation of that country. With the Faith, disasters and afflictions had already begun; with the Faith they increased; and, when it appeared that the Faith was, as it were, in peaceful possession of everything, *intraverunt aquæ tribulationum* so deeply, that this unhappy Christian