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CHAPTER VI.

VOYAGES AND SHIPWRECKS OF FATHER EMMANUEL CRESPEL,
RECOLLECT MISSIONARY IN NEW YORK, CANADA, AND THE WEST.

LETTER I.

My Dear Brother:—You have so long evinced a desire to know the details of the voyage I formerly made to Canada, that fearing to give you grounds for suspecting my friendship, if I continued to decline acceding to your desire, I directed one of my brothers to send you a relation of all that befel me. You tell me that you have received it, and, at the same time, complain that it is too succinct, and that you would be glad to have it more detailed. I love you too well not to make it a pleasure to please you, but I will divide my relation into several letters. A single one would be too long, and would doubtless tire you. The mind does not always keep pace with the heart. I would perhaps become tedious if I spoke too long of other subjects than our friendship.

Do not expect to find this relation sustained by elevation of style, force of expression, and varied imagery; these graces of genius are not natural to me, and besides scarcely suit anything but fiction. Truth has no need of ornament, to be relished by those who really love it;