



CHAPTER I.

BIRTH AND EDUCATION OF MADAME DE LA PELTRIE.

MISS MAGDALEN DE CHAUVIGNY was born at Alençon, in France, in the year 1603; her father, Mr. de Chauvigny, Lord of Vaubegon, was greatly distinguished among the nobility of the Province, and her mother was of equally illustrious origin: both parents being penetrated with the love and fear of God, united their efforts to inspire their beloved daughter, with feelings similar to their own. The young Magdalen did not disappoint their hopes; as she grew up, her exterior graces expanded each day to the admiration of her friends, but the fond parents rejoiced still more when they