

PREFACE.

No works are more popular, or generally read, than those describing the perils by sea and land, through which the writers have passed; and one work of fiction, the Robinson Crusoe of Defoe, will ever be a favorite from its apparent reality, its combination of perils from shipwreck and périls from the barbarous savage, which the imaginary hero recounts.

No fiction can equal the real sufferings of every kind endured by the early missionaries to this country. Like Saint Paul, they might indeed speak of their perils—perils by sea, perils by land, perils from robbers, perils from false brethren. Fortunately for our edification, many of them left narratives of their adventures, and some of these, we have gathered in this volume from various sources, which we might call original. They comprise Father Charles Lalemant's narrative of his shipwreck off Cape Breton, taken from the *Voyages de Cham-*