



PERE JEAN.

CHAPTER I.

THE MISSIONARY.

IN the year of our Lord 1642 the various missionary stations of the Jesuits throughout Canada, or New France, as it was then called, were threatened with all the wild fury of the savage and untamable Iroquois. The Five Nations had proved themselves the most unconquerable in their hostility to the white man, to the religion which he taught, and the civilization which he endeavored to introduce. In vain had overtures of peace been made. For a time, perhaps, as if slumbering from indolence or exhaustion, they ceased to ravage, but it was only to break forth again with more furious