

which they then distribute to all who constitute the assembly.¹

1562.

The sun is, in some sort, the only divinity of the Floridians;² all their temples are consecrated to it; but the worship which they render it varies according to the district. It is pretended that morals are very corrupt throughout Florida, and that the venereal disease, which the West Indies conveyed to Europeans, is very common there. It is certain, at least, that the nearer you approach Florida, from Canada, the more corrupt the Indians are found; and that the debauchery now seen among the Iroquois, and other nations still further north, springs, in a considerable degree, from their intercourse with the tribes of the West and South. Polygamy is permitted in Florida, only to the Paraoustis, and even they give the name of wife to only one; the rest being really slaves, transmitting to their offspring no right of inheritance from the father.³

Their religion and morals.

Great honors are paid to these chiefs in life, and still greater after death.⁴ Their burial-place is fenced in with arrows planted in the ground; and the cup from which they usually drank, is placed on the grave. The whole village weeps and fasts for three days. The cabin of the departed is burned, with all the articles specially used by him, as though no one was worthy to use them after him. Then the women cut off their hair, and scatter it over the tomb;⁵ to which several go thrice a day, in turn, for six months, to weep. The Paraoustis of the neighboring towns come also to pay, ceremoniously, the last honors to the deceased.

Honors paid to the chief.

They employ almost as much ceremony on the death of the ministers of religion,⁶ who are also the physicians of the country, and who differ little from the medicine-men of

Ministers of religion.

¹ Basarier, *Histoire Notable*, p. 10. He calls it *Casiné*.

² *Ib.*, p. 8; Ribauld, *Whole and True Discovery*, p. 99.

³ *Histoire Notable*, p. 8.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 10; *Le Moyne de Morgues*, plate xi.

⁵ *Le Moyne de Morgues*, plate xix.

⁶ *Histoire Notable*, p. 11.