

about to perform, and exhorted them to have great confidence in God if they undertook it in all sincerity,—adding that, as for those who were there only through formality, they should be very careful as to what they were about to do, that they had to do with a God who knew the depths of their hearts and would not fail to punish them severely, if they did not conduct themselves towards him with the respect and reverence that his divine Majesty requires. The exhortation finished, the Father made them all prostrate themselves upon their knees before an image of our Lord; and he repeated aloud the formula of a vow, which contained a firm resolution to believe in God and to serve him faithfully, and then a promise to erect in the Spring a little chapel in his honor, in case it should please him to show them mercy, and to deliver them from this contagious malady. We did not have all the gratification we had hoped for in this act, as not all those who had been invited were present; [109] and, among others, the one who passed as Captain, although he carried only the title thereof, had gone out before the Ceremony began, and was amusing himself in playing and laughing with some persons from his Cabin. Also most of them have been punished by a miserable death; God dissembled for the time, as the measure of their sins was not yet full. They had to add horrible blasphemies and most wicked designs upon the lives of those who they had only too much reason to believe were here in their country merely to do them a kindness; I shall speak of this more clearly in its place. There were those present, however, who gave us some consolation,—above all, one named *Tsioandaentaha*; although the Father Superior spoke very distinctly,