

we saw the Captain Anenkhiondic and some of the old men, to whom we spoke of the vow that those of our village had made in order to stop the [114] progress of the disease. They manifested a great desire to do the same, and charged us to report to the Father Superior that they were quite prepared to do all that he should judge proper on this occasion. Their love of life made them speak in this way; and, indeed, they will make the same promise the others did, and with even more ostentation, and after all, when it comes to the execution of what they have promised, they will prove to be no better than the others.

Meantime, while we were at *Ossosané*, the Father Superior and our Fathers did not remain with folded arms at Ihonatiria. The sick gave them practice enough on the one hand, and, on the other, the inhabitants of Oenrio, (a village one league distant from us) seeing themselves assailed by the malady, manifested some desire to have recourse to God. The Father Superior went to see them, to sound them in this matter; he baptized a little child at his arrival. At the same time, the Captain had the council assemble, and invited the father thither, where at the outset he asked him what they had to do that God might have compassion on them. The Father Superior answered them that the principal thing [115] was to believe in him, and to be firmly resolved to keep his commandments, touching especially upon some of their customs and superstitions which they must renounce if they purposed to serve him. Among other things, he proposed to them that, since they were thus inclined, they should henceforth give up their belief in their dreams; 2nd, that their marriages should be binding and for life,