

down here word for word; I do not undertake to do that. I may remark, however, that his conversation was only a series of boasts and extravagances; he did not declare the source of the evil, for he has often since admitted that he knew nothing about it, but he made great pretensions of remedying it if they would execute his orders. He boasted falsely of having already cured many in our village and elsewhere; that, for his own part, he was beyond any fear of taking the disease,—in fine, to hear him talk, he had little more than to command, and all the sick would immediately be upon their feet. He demanded some gifts with which to make a feast, and ordered some dances. The whole company listened to him with unparalleled manifestations of approval; and our host, who was one of the chief men, [141] said to him, "Courage, my nephew, assist us." These words sank deep into my heart; it was no time since they had publicly renounced the devil, and all those who were in league with him, and that they had protested they would have recourse to God alone, upon whom, they had admitted, depended their being and life; and see how they forthwith place all their confidence in the false promises of a charlatan and an impostor. I could not refrain from also speaking, in my turn, but what could I say? To be short of words with which to explain oneself upon so important an occasion is a matter for keen regret. This is all the lecture I gave them: "You are very wrong to do what you are doing, you show plainly that you do not believe what *Echon* has taught you; that man" (speaking of the sorcerer) "has not the power that you think; it is only he who has made heaven and earth who is the master of our lives. I do not con-