

[116] CHAP. VIII.

OF THE CONVERSION AND BAPTISM OF A SORCERER.

I HAVE often said that the name "sorcerer" is given here to certain Jugglers or charlatans who engage in singing, blowing upon the sick, consulting Devils, and killing men by their charms. I am inclined to think that there are, really, some among them who have communication with the Demons; but the majority of them are only impostors, practicing their enchantments to obtain presents from the poor sick, to render themselves popular, or to make themselves feared. The one of whom I am about to speak was in the last category; he was dreaded by his people, and looked upon as a wicked man. I have often spoken of him in preceding Relations, for we had some disputes with him in the presence of his Compatriots; but as his art was founded upon falsehood, and as we were supported [117] by truth, we cudgelled him so roughly that he surrendered. He came to see us privately, in order to be instructed; we believe that in the beginning he did not so much desire to have us for friends, as he feared to have us for enemies. But God, who is the Master of hearts, touched him inwardly, and disposed him to a goodness that surpasses our understanding. When he left us to go to war, he assured us that he would have recourse to God, and that he would believe in him, without pretense. He knew very well that we took his words as the compliment