

[145] CHAPTER X.

OF THE BELIEF IN SUPERSTITIONS, AND OF SOME
CUSTOMS OF THE SAVAGES.

AS the Relations of preceding years are filled with the customs of our Savages, I do not intend to speak of them fully here, but rather to set down in a few words what I have learned that is new upon this subject. If I indulge in some repetitions, it is because I have forgotten what I have before written thereon.

First, as to what concerns their belief. Some of them imagine a Paradise abounding in blueberries;¹³ these are little blue fruits, the berries of which are as large as the largest grapes. I have not seen any of them in France. They have a tolerably good flavor, and for this reason the souls like them very much. Others say that the souls do nothing but dance after their departure from this life; there are some who admit the transmigration of souls, as Pythagoras did; and the majority of them imagine that the soul is insensible after it has left the [146] body; as a general thing, all believe that it is immortal. They distinguish several souls in one and the same body. An old man told us some time ago that some Savages had as many as two or three souls; that his own had left him more than two years before, to go away with his dead relatives,—that he no longer had any but the soul of his own body, which would go down into the grave with him. One learns from this