

not come near them. A Juggler one day brandished his javelin in the air, imagining that he would frighten a soul which had recently left its own body. They greatly fear that these souls will enter their cabins, or will sojourn there; for, if they did, they would take some one away with them into their country. A certain man, seeing a rocket in the air, and not knowing whence it came,—not being able to believe, moreover, that the French could throw fire so high,—asserted that he had seen a soul wandering in the light; it is thus they call the air. The women hang to the necks of their little children a small piece of the navel that is attached to them when they are born; if they were to lose it, their children would all be dolts and lacking in sense, they think. When people walk in the darkness, they take few steps without stumbling. I have already said too much about what they do for the recovery of their sick. This year we have seen a solemn game or challenge between two nations, who had a fierce contest over the recovery of a poor [150] patient. The players and the betters went into his cabin at the sound of the drum and of the tortoise shell, which they accompanied with cries and shouts, in their fashion. Those who bet or wagered were seated on either side, watching their players, each favoring his own side with many gestures and many cries, according to their enthusiasm and their interest. The result was that the soul of the two nations lost a quantity of porcelain, and other things which had been staked; but, as for the sick man, he experienced no other relief than that of having his head well broken by all this great uproar. After these fine Physicians had left, he sent for one of our Fathers, who had begun to in-