

## [123] CHAP. THE LAST.

OF THE REIGN OF SATAN IN THESE COUNTRIES; AND  
OF THE VARIOUS SUPERSTITIONS INTRODUCED AND  
ESTABLISHED THEREIN, AS THE FIRST PRIN-  
CIPLES AND FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF  
THE CONDITION AND PRESERVA-  
TION OF THESE PEOPLES.

I DO not undertake to treat this subject exhaustively,—whoever should undertake this would, in my opinion, find himself before a greater task than ever had Hercules in cleansing the Augean stables.

What I do intend to do is merely to survey briefly some special incidents that have occurred this winter,—only in this village of the Residence of la Conception, where I have made my principal abode,—in which we have found ourselves obliged to examine the circumstances and details of these calamities, in behalf of our Christians, for whose consciences we are obliged to provide.

Casting our eyes over the customs and practices [124] of these peoples, they had always appeared to us like stagnant, ill-smelling pools; yet we had hardly seen, in the past, more than the surface. But since we have been obliged, on account of our Christians, to search within, and remove this sewer, it cannot be believed what a stench and what wretchedness we have found there.

An old man of this village, named Taorhenché,