

him,—assuring him that his coming had been devoutly awaited for a long time, and that they were ready to have many fine dances and feasts on his account. In fact, he so convinced himself of the truth of this, that, in order to be present there in the same dress and magnificence in which he had seen the others, he had his whole face painted red, had brought and placed over him [129] the finest articles he had, was given his plate and spoon; and thus he died.

This barbarian passed, in the common opinion of the Savages, as one of the most respectable and virtuous men of the whole country; if you asked them upon what grounds, they said, “Because he was a peaceable man, who did no harm to any one, and who greatly delighted in merrymaking and in giving feasts.” If the opinion of the Savages is correct, I leave you to imagine of what value all the others are.

In connection with this unhappy man, who had several times employed the remedies of which we have just spoken, and who had certain special dances and songs in all these ceremonies which were performed in his behalf,—we learned that there is hardly any family in these countries, the heads of which do not have some dances, feasts, and other ceremonies suitable for the cure of their diseases and the success of their business; but that all these have been taught by the Demons, either in the manner that we shall presently describe, or by appearing to them in dreams,—now in the form of a raven, or some other bird, now in the form of a serpent, as happened [130] to him of whom we have just spoken, or of some other animal, which speaks to them and reveals the secret of their good fortune, either in the recovery of their health when they fall sick, or in the