

and maintenance of their whole State. "These," the old men and the Captains say to us, "are what we call affairs of importance."

[161] For several of these superstitions there are organized Fraternities, to which, and especially to the Masters of which, one must address himself.

All those who have once been the object and occasion of the dance or the feast, belong to the Fraternity, to which, after their death, one of their children succeeds; some have, besides, a secret or a charm which has been declared to them in a dream, with the song to be used before going, for example, to the fire feast, after which they can handle the fire without hurting themselves.

I will give an account of something that happened during the time of this great ceremony. One of the prominent young men of the village, while running during one of those three nights, and acting the madman, encountered a specter or demon, with whom he had some words; this meeting so upset his brain that he fell down, and actually became insane. The remedy was, promptly to kill two dogs, and, among others, one which he held especially dear, of which a feast was made. In consequence of this he became better, and finally returned to his senses.

I would never reach the end, if I should undertake [162] to tell all the circumstances and details of these wretched affairs. But enough of this; let us come to other mysteries.

In the middle of the month of March, the season having arrived for fishing with the Seine, they talked of marrying it, according to the custom of the country, to two young girls, or rather to two children, who had never had intercourse with men,—and then