

The Hurons, their neighbors, no sooner got wind of this, than lo, there was a feast, [164] and a solemnity was instituted, that has ever since continued, and is celebrated every year at this same season. This being so, I leave it to be imagined what we said and counseled to the parents of this Girl; but lo, there ensued a grievance. For, as the whole family profit considerably from such a marriage,—part of the fish caught reverting to them in the year when it takes place, and being then due and appropriated to them, in consideration of such an alliance,—to refuse their consent to such a marriage is to deprive and defraud an entire family of the greatest pleasure and the best opportunity that can be found in the country.

I do not know whether God were pleased to intervene especially in this affair, and break it up altogether or not; at all events, the ceremony did not take place, in any form.

One of the latest fooleries that has occurred in this village was in behalf of a sick man of a neighboring village, who, for his health, dreamed, or received the order from the Physician of the country, that a game of dish should be played for him. He tells it to the Captains, who immediately assemble the council, fix the time, and choose the Village that they must invite [165] for this purpose,—and that village is ours. An envoy from that place is sent hither to make the proposition; it is accepted, and then preparations are made on both sides.

This game of dish consists in tossing some stones of the wild plum in a wooden dish,—each being white on one side, and black on the other,—whence there ensues loss or gain, according to the laws of the game.