

poor Christians suffered [109] the insolence and the evil example of the Pagans. Among their superstitions they had begun one, brought from the upper countries, which was to last three nights, during which the Savages run through the cabins with the shrieks and yells of Demons. The finest act of this tragi-comedy consists in this point,—the girls and women begin to dance, and some men take the Juggler or Sorcerer under the arms, and make him walk over the glowing coals without being burned. Father Buteux,—having secretly had notice, from a Christian, of the time when this diabolical farce was to be played for the healing of a sick woman,—prompted by zeal for the glory of our Lord, went to the cabins about ten o'clock at night, accompanied by Father Poncet; and, inveighing as strongly as he could against these insolencies, accosted the Captain of the Savages from the Island, who alone could check these disorders, as being the chief author and promoter of them. This man, naturally colder than ice, became excited, and reproached the Father, saying to him that Baptism and prayers made the [110] Savages die; the Father replied to him that their sins and sorceries were the cause of their death. At this clamor, the Savages ran in haste from all sides, and alarm was manifest in their camp; the Christians said nothing, being few in number, but the Pagans yelled at the top of their voices; I would be too diffuse in relating all that took place then. In short, this Captain, carried away with anger, threw burning cinders at the eyes of the Father, and took a rope as if he intended to strangle him, threatening to kill him. The Father very coolly presented his neck, but this Barbarian proceeded no further. At last,