

protection; I come to teach you both the reasons and the remedies for your misfortune. It is the strangers who alone are the cause of it; they now travel two by two throughout the country, with the design of spreading the disease everywhere. They will not stop with that; after this smallpox which now depopulates your cabins, there will follow certain colics which in less than three days will carry off all those whom this disease may not have removed. You can prevent this misfortune; drive out from your village the two black gowns who are there. As for those who are now attacked by the smallpox, I wish you to serve me in curing them; prepare a quantity of such a water, run as fast as possible to the village, and tell the elders to carry and distribute this potion during the whole night. Then all the youth and the war Captains will go acting like madmen through all the cabins; but I wish them to continue even till the dawn of day,—after that, the demon disappears.”

[154] This poor man straightway hastens to the village, and gives warning of all that he knows; thereupon the Elders twice and thrice assemble the council. These diabolical ceremonies are received with approbation; toward evening, one hears in all the streets nothing but the shout of the Captains, who exhort the youth to act bravely as madmen. Then it was that this spirit of trouble triumphed in his reign. As our missionaries were lodged in the cabin of the principal Captain, it was there that the first act of this comedy began; our Fathers were obliged to break up their little retreat for the holy Mass, to the end of preventing what these mad fellows would have done, for he is judged the most valiant who best acts the maniac. Everywhere were heard only howlings,—