

are, in almost all things, like the other Savages of these regions, especially in their irreligion and government, [56] whether political or domestic.

However, there are some things in which they seem a little different from our Hurons. First, they appear taller, stronger, and better proportioned.

Secondly, their affection toward their dead seems to be much greater. Our Hurons immediately after death carry the bodies to the burying ground and take them away from it only for the feast of the Dead. Those of the Neutral Nation carry the bodies to the burying ground only at the very latest moment possible when decomposition has rendered them insupportable; for this reason, the dead bodies often remain during the entire winter in their cabins; and, having once put them outside upon a scaffold that they may decay, they take away the bones as soon as is possible, and expose them to view, arranged here and there in their cabins, until the feast of the Dead. These objects which they have before their eyes, renewing continually the feeling of their losses, cause them frequently to cry out and to make most lugubrious lamentations, the whole in song. But this is done only by the women.

[57] The third respect in which they seem different from our Hurons, is in the multitude and sort of lunatics. In going through the country, one finds nothing else but people who play this part with all possible extravagances, and any liberties they choose, and who are suffered to do all that is pleasing to them, for fear of offending their demon. They take the embers from the fire, and scatter them around; they break and shatter what they encounter, as if they were raving,—although in reality, for the most