

part, they are as self-collected as those who do not play this character. But they conduct themselves in this way, in order to give, they say, this satisfaction to their special demon, who demands and exacts this of them,—that is to say, to him who speaks to them in dreams, and who makes them expect the fulfillment of their wishes for good success in hunting.

While the Fathers were in these quarters, they learned that the Oneiochronons (who form one of the five Iroquois Nations) had a very peculiar form of government. The men and the women therein [58] administer alternately the affairs; so that, if now it is a man who governs them, after his death it will be a woman, who during her life will govern them in her turn, except in what regards war; and, after the death of the woman, it will be a man who will resume again the administration of affairs.

Some old men related to our Fathers that they had acquaintance with a certain Western Nation, against which they were going to make war, and which was not far removed from the sea; that the inhabitants of the place fished for Vignots, that are a kind of oyster, the shell of which serves to make porcelain beads, which are the pearls of the country. This is the way they describe their fishing: they observe when the sea rises in places where these Vignots abound, and when the violence of the waves drives them towards the shore, they throw themselves headlong into the water and seize those that they can catch. Sometimes they find them so large, that it is all they can do to stretch their arms around one of them. Now, many affirm that it must be [59] young men, who have not yet had knowledge of woman, who can carry on this fishery, as otherwise