

under a new name. In a word, they believe that there are unlucky names, and others that are lucky. A dream is sufficient to make a man change his name. It has often been said that the dead were brought back to life by making the living bear their names. This is done for several reasons,—to revive the memory of a brave man, and to incite him who shall bear his name to imitate his courage; to take revenge upon the enemies, for he who takes the name of a man killed in battle binds himself to avenge his death; to assist the family of a dead man, because he who brings him back to life, and who represents him, assumes all the duties of the deceased, feeding his [186] children as if he were their own Father—in fact, they call him their Father, and he calls them his children. Mothers or other relatives who love a son, or a daughter, or any of their kindred, cause such persons to be resuscitated, through a desire to see them close by them,—transferring the affection that they felt for the deceased to the persons who take their names. This ceremony takes place at a solemn feast in the presence of many guests. He who brings back the dead to life makes a present to him who is to take his place. He sometimes hangs a collar of Porcelain beads around his neck. If the latter accept, he takes the name of the deceased, and begins to dance before all the others, as a mark of rejoicing.¹⁵ There is not a Nation that does not aspire to immortality but true Christians alone obtain it.

A man who loved his wife—or a wife who loved her husband—and who respects her relatives, will sometimes remain three years without remarriage,