

Christianam,—and have recourse to a God whom they invoke almost without knowing him,—*Ignoto Deo*.

The Ondataouaouat, who are of the Algonquin race, are in the habit of invoking almost always in their feasts him who has [119] created the Sky,—asking him for health and a long life; for success in their wars, in the chase, in fishing, and in all their trading; and with that object they offer him the meats that are eaten at the feast. To the same end they also throw tobacco in the fire, offering it by name to the Genie who has created the Sky,¹¹ whom they believe to be different from the one who has created the earth. And they add that there is a special Genie who has made winter, and that he dwells in the North, whence he sends forth snow and cold; and that there is another who has dominion over the waters, and who causes storms and shipwrecks. They say that the winds are produced by seven other Genii who dwell in the air beneath the Sky, and who blow the seven winds that prevail in these countries.

But, after all, even when those barbarous peoples invoke the Creator of the world in this fashion, they admit that they know not who he is; they have neither fear of his justice, nor love for his Goodness. Moreover, all their invocations are unaccompanied by respect, or by Religious worship; they are merely a custom without soul and without vigor, which they say they have [120] received from their ancestors, without its having left on their minds any impression that disposes them to accept the mysteries of our holy Faith in a more godly manner.