

to him another, he goes [14 i.e., 16] to find him, and continues the investigation until he finds one who has it from nobody. In this, and in similar things, they display great sincerity,—never naming an innocent man; while the guilty one, through his silence, confesses himself the culprit. A case in point was brought before us. A poor woman, who had no other wealth than a collar of certain beads made of sea-shells,—which the French have called *porcelaine*, and which are, as it were, the money and the pearls of the country,—for fear lest while cultivating her field it might be stolen from the cabin, carried it with her in a pouch, which, in order that she might not be hindered in her work, she attached to the trunk of a tree, intending to get it again upon going away. A neighbor of hers, who was at work in another field, espied it, and, suspecting that the good woman would forget it, she never lost sight of it. The old woman, after a while, leaves her field to go to another, near by; and the neighbor, who waited only for this, takes the pouch before her very eyes, and exclaims, after the manner of the country, “I have made a good find!” and goes away. Now the uncertainty is, whether this woman can legitimately keep it, or whether the other has the right to dispossess her. The intentions are obscure: for who knows whether the owner intended to return, as she said, into the field? If she did not, the pouch, according to the accepted usage of the country, is accounted as abandoned, *et primo occupantis*. We referred the matter to the Captains, of whose prudence we took note. “If the matter is considered with strictness,” they answered, “the prize is good,—at least the old woman has not the right to dispossess the other