

derer to death: it is the public that gives satisfaction for the crimes of the individual, whether the culprit be known or not. In fine, the crime alone is punished, and not the criminal; and this, which elsewhere would appear an injustice, is among them a most efficacious means for preventing the spread of similar disorders. I have believed that it might be a reasonable curiosity to wish to know, in this matter, their particular customs; howbeit, I will continue in a few words the Story begun above. [16 i.e., 18] Having, then, resolved to make satisfaction to us, they called us to a general council which they had convened; at which an old Captain, in the name of them all, began to speak to the Superior of the Mission in this wise: "Brother" (these are almost his own words), "thou seest here all the nations assembled together to make satisfaction to you,"—he named them all, one by one; "we are no more than a handful of people; thou alone sustainest this poor country, and bearest it in thy hands. A thunderbolt has struck it, and rent it in two; it has opened a chasm before us, wherein, if thou abandon us, we shall surely be swallowed up. Have therefore pity on us, who are here to lament thy loss, and ours, rather than to speak. This country is nothing but a skeleton, without flesh, without veins, without sinews, without arteries; we are like dry bones, bound together with a very delicate thread. The blow dealt upon the head of thy nephew, whom we mourn, has broken that bond; it was the Demon who put the axe in the hand of the assassin. Was it perchance thou, O Sun, who didst lead him to commit so wretched a crime? Why didst thou not darken thy light, that he himself might be horrified at his own