

will gladly despoil ourselves of them to satisfy thee; we will despoil our children, to content thee; nor will we accuse thee herein, but only him who involved us in guilt. Against him shall we direct our resentment, and for thee we shall never have anything but love and veneration." In answer, there was given him a parcel of small sticks, a little longer and thicker than matches, which indicated the number of presents that we required by way of satisfaction for the murder. Our Christians had informed us of all their customs, and exhorted us to observe them exactly, unless we would arouse prejudice not only against ourselves, but also against the cause of God and the faith. The Captains divided the sticks among them, so that every nation should contribute toward the presents which we asked. For this purpose every one went to his own village. No individual is obliged to make this contribution, but they vie with one another, according as they are more or less rich, in sharing these public burdens, in order to show their devotion to the common weal. A day was therefore set for the return, in order to perform the ceremony with all the solemnity of the country. This was the 11th of May. On the eve of this event, 4 Captains were delegated by the general council to confer with us; two were Christians, and two infidels. They presented themselves at the door; but as there is no speaking on these occasions without gifts, they made the first one at the entrance: which was to the end that the door might be opened to them. They made a second, that they might be permitted to enter; and, as many doors as they had to pass, so many gifts we might have required of them. When they had entered, they began to speak, offering us a present