

and burned at a slow fire by their enemies; or, it may be, of dying from hunger in their journeyings and when they are Hunting,—they have among them a sort of tradition which makes them Believe that, if they have some vision, or rather some dream, they will be fortunate in Hunting and war; and that, should they fall into the hands of their enemies, they will escape from them. Thence it comes that they cling to dreams and visions of These kinds as they would to life. Fathers and mothers bring up their children in This idea from their earliest years; and they accustom them to make long Fasts, that they may obtain visions, and may see or hear some spirit in their sleep. They do this with such exactness and austerity as to go 4 or 5 Days, and even longer, without eating or drinking anything. I do not know whether the devil appears to them under the form of their pretended spirits, or whether their brains, weak from their having been so long without food, make them Imagine some spirit: be that as it may, this superstition gives extreme trouble to the missionaries, and prevents them from baptizing the greater number of these people, through the reasonable Fear lest there should be in It Something diabolical. In order to establish Christianity on a solid basis, we have baptized only a few, who, as we knew, had given up all these superstitions. One of These, having been entreated by his father to Fast, that he might try to see some spirit, refused him, saying that he was baptized, that he was Acquainted with the great spirit of whom the black gown spoke to them, and that he had no need of any other divinity. And, As his father had taunted him, saying that he would be a man of no account all his life, he replied to him: ‘It matters not; I shall be a great Captain in Heaven, and God will make me happy by placing me near him.’ We had delayed to baptize the brother of this fervent