

and in fact did impart it, to her Nation, who no longer thought of anything but war. When Father Buteux took her to task for her maliciousness, she drew a knife, and threatened to kill him. But was this not a ruse of the enemy, who fears to lose, in a sedentary life, those who in their vagrant journeys are wholly his?

Here are some minor superstitions, which throw dust in their eyes and darkness over their minds. They [133] are not pleased to hear one speak of death, or of sickness, or of any misfortune, whatever it may be, lest the Manitou, hearing this talk, may take occasion to afflict them, or make them die. I have said before that they have a great fear of death; it is true, for they cannot endure the word. Yet, when they are sick, they have not such a horror of it; especially when they suffer a great deal; then some even beg to be killed, either to be delivered from the torments they are enduring, or to relieve from trouble those who have to drag them about with them.

They sometimes wear on the bottom of their garments little ornaments made from Bears' claws, that they may more easily kill these animals, and not be hurt by them.

There are some among them who say that their chest or breast throbs when some one is about to come. One of them, declaring that the Savages of the Island were near the River of the Hiroquois,²¹ where this year the council of war is to be held, gave no other reason than that his chest was throbbing. One of our Frenchmen, who has long [134] associated with these Barbarians, has assured me that he has frequently found out by experience the truth of