

ing their hair, hands and face with dirt, leaving the hair uncombed to mat with the dirt, gashing their legs and arms, and leaving them to get well without the least attention. Some of them carry their grief so far as to raise the skin of their arms and pierce holes with their knives, and put pegs through. They continue their mourning about a year, although by giving a feast and performing certain ceremonies they can be relieved from their mourning in a much less time.

Religious superstitions, &c. Wawkaw, in their language, signifies a spirit or spiritual. The French have interpreted or rendered it medicine, but the Indians call the Great Spirit or God Waw-kaw-tong-gaw, the latter part signifying *great*. The devil they call Waw-kaw-she-coh, the latter part signifying *bad*. It is difficult to get an Indian to talk on the subject of his religious belief, but my interpreter, who was a half breed, informed me that they believe, that the great Good Spirit resides in a beautiful country of good hunting ground, and where there is everything in abundance that an Indian can desire, even a plurality of beautiful wives. But to get there, they must be good Indians in this world, and perform all their duties well as hunters, warriors, &c.; that on the way to this happy land, there is a deep gulf to pass, with a very narrow way to cross it, and that only the good can successfully pass over; that the bad, in attempting to pass, fall off into the gulf, and wander about in a starving condition. They are very particular in performing their religious rites by feasts, sacrifices, &c. The first fruits gathered are set apart for the purpose of a spiritual or holy feast; the first corn or wild rice of the season, the first duck or goose killed when they appear in the spring, are all reserved for the feast; at which those Indians only who are entitled to wear the badge of having slain an enemy, are invited. The women, and those who have never taken the scalp of a foe, no matter how hungry, are never invited to participate. You will see boys of sixteen or eighteen years of age at the feast, while old gray-headed men are excluded with the women,