

or voyageurs; also to satisfy themselves if their friends will escape sickness. In this state of fury, after having obtained the information they seek, they smoke and sing to the Great Spirit, who descends into their tabernacle and communicates with them. Sometimes they speak the truth, which adds greatly to their reputation. More often they are deceived; but in this case the people say it is the fault of the medicine man, who did not pray well to the Spirit, or that he is a young man who lacks experience, as the Spirit cannot lie.

They believe in the immortality of the soul, which takes a new body in the next world, in which they go to the hunt in a very fine country, where they live luxuriantly. Some one pronounces a harangue over the body after death. Their souls, they believe, go in a canoe, and if the time is felicitously chosen, they pass over the great seas, over which the man of death crosses, and arrives happily at the abode of the dead, where nothing will be wanting. If the tree rises and sinks to the bottom as they pass, or the canoe touches, an old woman will be awakened, who seizes the dead body and eats it; in which case the soul cannot return to it, but remains dead forever. In this season, they recommend to the deceased great vigilance in guiding his canoe, so as to pass when the tree sinks. When a chief dies, his entrails are taken out, laid upon a "bucher," and being burnt, the ashes are interred. Another chief opens the body and prepares the "bucher," who is entitled for this to despoil the dead. It is a point of honor to ask permission of the body before opening it. After this, he fires the pile, and while it is burning, they speak and gesticulate to each other. Such as are not burned, are buried with their war clubs, bows, arrows, blankets, a paddle, "une mikeuene," and some eatables. At the bottom of the grave, they make a bed of spruce branches, placing over the body bark and branches of the same tree, to prevent the earth from coming to it; women and children are buried in like manner. In general, the dead are exposed an