

Abenakis, the Calumet Dance made its appearance. The Calumet was kept hidden for a whole year and not a word was said of the Dance. He who had charge of it had reason to fear that neither the one nor the other would be well received. He was aware that eighteen years previously they had been brought in unavailingly under Father Vincent Bigot<sup>1</sup> who energetically and successfully opposed the reception of that Calumet and of that Dance, because he knew everything connected with them. It was therefore necessary to choose a favorable time, and this was when he found that the late Monsieur de Vaudreuil had been informed of all his doings and had administered a severe reprimand to him. Then he raised the mask and in order to revenge himself and to manifest his resentment, he at last brought forth the Calumet and the Dance. When the missionary of St François, who had been a witness of what had occurred in Father Bigot's time, saw this Dance suddenly make its appearance, he was surprised at its novelty, and heard some savages say that Christians could not amuse themselves with such diversions. He, therefore, carefully inquired into the matter and this is what he learned:—

1st. That this Dance was really a religious ceremony not only amongst the Renards but also amongst all the nations of the upper country; that it was called the Spirit Dance; that they did not say: "dance with the Calumet," but "dance in honor of the Calumet;" in other words that it was the God of those Nations.

2nd. That the words used in the song of that Dance are an invocation of the Spirit.

3d. That when the Calumet is smoked in the Councils, a man whose wife is pregnant must abstain from smoking it, because his wife would not be safely delivered of her child and the latter would inevitably die.

4th. That this Dance is used to call the souls of those against

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<sup>1</sup>Vincent Bigot arrived in Canada in 1680, and in 1694 founded the Abenaki mission at Pentagoët. From 1704-10, he was superior of the Canadian missions. Returning to France in 1713, he was made procurer of these missions, and died in France in 1720.—Eb.