

of habit; if a merchant, in another; if an artist, in that of the protecting god of his art; if a drunkard, in the habit of the god of wine.

With the habit they give the dead a jug of water, and different pieces of paper, with directions for the use of each. With the first they say "By means of this you will pass without danger between the two mountains which fight against each other." With the second he is told, "that he will walk without obstruction along the road which is defended by the great serpent;" and so of the rest.

They kill a domestic quadruped, resembling a little dog, to accompany the deceased on his journey to the other world. They fix a string about its neck, believing it necessary to enable it to pass the deep river of new waters. They burn it with or bury the body of its master, according to the kind of death of which he died. While the masters of the ceremonies are lighting up the fire in which the body is to be burned, the other priests sing some melancholy strains. When the body is consumed, they gather the ashes in an earthen pot, among which, according to the circumstances of the deceased, they put a gem of more or less value, which they believe will serve him as a heart in the other world. They bury this earthen pot in a deep ditch, and at the end of fourscore days make oblations of bread and wine.

The funeral of a king is attended with ceremonies of the same kind, only in a style much more magnificent; and to attend him on his journey a multitude of slaves are sacrificed. The number of victims on some of these occasions is not less than two hundred. A festival is held every year in honour of their last king, on which they celebrate his birth; to his death they never allude.