

and did weep for him with great and grievous complaints; in such sort that the *Canaanites* seeing it did say; this mourning is grievous to the *Egyptians*; and for the greatness and novelty of the same mourning they called the said floor *Abel Misraim*, that is to say the mourning of the *Egyptians*.

The *Romans* had hired women to weep for the dead, and to relate their praises by long mournful complaints; and those women were called *Præfæ*, as it were *Præfæta*, because that they did begin the motion when it was needful to lament, and to relate the praises of the dead.

*Mercede quæ conductæ flent alieno in funere præfæ multo & capillos scindunt, & clamant magis, fæith Lucilius* by the report of *Nonius*; sometimes the very trumpets were not neglected at it, as *Virgil* testifieth in these words:

*It cælo clamor, clangorque tubarum.*

I will not here make a collection of all the customs of other nations; for it would never be at an end; but in *France* every one knoweth that the women of *Picardy* do lament their dead with great clamours. *Monf. des Accords* amongst other things by him collected, reciteth of one, who making her funeral complaints, that she said to her decess'd husband; good God! My poor husband, thou hast given us a pitiful farewell! O what farewell! It is for ever. O what long congie. The women of *Bearn* are yet more pleasant; for they recount during the time of a whole day the whole life of their husbands. *La mi amou, la mi amou; yara rident, ail de splendou; cama leugé bet danfadou; lo mé balen balem, lo m'esburbat: mati de pes: fort tard congat:* and such like things: that is to say; *My love, my love: smiling countenance; bright eye; nimble leg; and good dancer; mine own valiant, mine own valiant; early up, and late abed, &c.* *John de Leri* reciteth, that which followeth of the *Gascogn* women; *yere, yere, ô le bet renegadou, ô le bet jougadou qu'bere*, that is to say; *ob the brave swaggerer, ob what a fair player he was?* And thereupon he reporteth that the women of *Brazil* do howl and bawl with such clamours, that it seemeth that it be some assembly of dogs and wolves. He is dead (will some women say drawing their voices) he was so valiant, and who hath made us to eat of so many prisoners; others making a quire apart will say; Oh what a good hunter and what an excellent fisher he was! Oh what a brave knocker down of *Portuges* and of *Margaias* he was; of whom he hath so well avenged us. And at the

The *Topinambouts* are enemies to

pause of every complaint they will say; *the Per-he is dead, he is dead for whom we do now mourn!* Wherunto the men do answer, saying; alas it is true! we shall see him no more until we see him behind the mountains, where we shall dance with him, and other such things; but the most part of these people do end their mourning in one day, or somewhat more.

As for the *Indians of Florida*, when any of their *Paraoustis* die, they weep three days and three nights continually and without eating; and all the *Paraoustis* that be his allies and friends do the like mourning, cutting half their hairs, as well men as women, in token of love. And that done, there be some women ordained, who during the time of six moons do lament the death of their *Paraousti* three times a day, crying with a loud voice, in the morning, at noon, and at night; which is the fashion of the *Roman Præfæ*s, of whom we have not long since spoken.

For that which is of the mourning apparel, our *Souriquois* do paint their faces all with black; which maketh them to seem very hideous; but the *Hebrews* were more reprovably, who did scotch their faces in the time of mourning, and did shave their hairs, as saith the prophet *Jeremiab*; which was usual among them of great antiquity; by reason whereof, the same was forbidden them by the law of God in *Leviticus*: *You shall not cut round the corners of your hairs, neither mar the tusis of your beards, and you shall not cut your flesh for the dead, nor make any print of a mark upon you. I am the Lord;* and in *Deuteronomy*, *You are the children of the Lord your God, you shall not cut your selves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead.*

Which was also forbidden by the *Romans* in the laws of the twelve tables.

*Herodotus* and *Diodorus* do say, that the *Egyptians* (chiefly in their kings funerals) did rent their garments, and besmeared their faces, yea all their heads; and assembling themselves twice a day, did march in round, singing the virtues of their king; did abstain from sodden meats, from living creatures, from wine, and from all dainty fare during the space of seventy days, without any washing, or lying on any bed, much less to have the company of their wives, always lamenting.

The ancient mourning of our queens of *France* (for as for our kings they wear no mourning apparel) was in white colour, and therefore after the death of their husbands they kept the names of *roines blanches* (white queens.) But the common mourning of others is at this day

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