

asserted that the Evil Spirit often came to them and approved or disapproved of their schemes and plans. They had great faith in dreams. Biard thought, however, that "of the one supreme God they had a certain slender notion, but they were so prevented by false ideas and custom that they really worshipped the Devil." Of the Indians of Cape Breton, Father Perrault tells us, (Vol. VIII) "We have not up to the present noticed any more religion among these poor savages than among the brutes." Lalemant in 1626 (Vol. IV.) speaking of the natives around Quebec, says, "They believe in the immortality of the soul, and in fact, they assure you that after death they go to heaven where they eat mushrooms and hold intercourse with each other." "They have no form of divine worship or any kind of prayers. They believe, however, that there is One who made all but they do not render him any homage."

On the other hand Le Jeune says they believed in certain Genii of the air who could foretell future events and were consulted through the medicine-men. At feasts the men threw some grease into the fire, saying, "Make us find something to eat. Make us find something to eat." He considered this a prayer and an offering to the Genii. He tells us (Vol. VI) that the children prayed, but "O my God what prayers they make; in the morning when they come out of their cabins they shout 'Come porcupines, come beavers, come elks!'" He heard Indians pray for the spring, for deliverance from evil, and for the Manitou not to cast his eyes upon their enemies so that they might kill them. They were great singers, and sang not only for amusement but for a thousand superstitious purposes; not one of them understood what he was singing, except when they sang for recreation. They accompanied their songs with the rattling of a drum; and the singing, the drumming, with the howling choruses of the spectators, were deemed very efficacious in restoring the sick and the dying to health.

At first some of the Indians accepted baptism merely as a sign of friendship with the French, so the Jesuits early determined to baptise no adult unless he had been well instructed in the mysteries of the faith and catechized. When teaching their language the crafty Red-men sometimes deceived the good Fathers, palming off indecent words and expressions upon them,