

who was always at hand tempting children to disobey and vex their parents, and who, whenever he succeeded in his wicked endeavors made all sorts of faces to them, though they did not see him, rejoicing for having gained victory over them ; but as often as they resisted him successfully, he went away skulking, covered with shame and confusion, whilst the Great Spirit was pleased.

The children were also taught to show respect to old people ; that as it was not in the power of man to prolong his life, it was by special favor that some people lived longer than others ; that if such cursed those who despised and illtreated them in their old age, their petition would be heard by the Absolute Master of life ; on the contrary their good wishes would be attended with happy results.

As regards the inferior divinities : some were supposed to dwell in the sky and clouds, some in mountains, and others in lakes, rivers, and in the subterranean passages which were said to lead from the deep parts of lakes into the bowels of the earth. Some of these inhabiting the watery caverns were supposed to be extremely malicious, always seeking to destroy the human beings who might happen to be on the water in the time of storms, instead of protecting them.

The Thunders, conscious of their irresistible strength, were considered to be generous, always ready to afford their strong protection to mankind ; consequently the dreadful water monsters, and the terrible gods in the clouds were represented to be at perpetual enmity. The Thunders, of course, by fiery darts, always vanquished their opponents in the water, but they had to slay them eight times before they could finally kill them. If any person was killed by lightning it was said to be merely accidental, seeing that when the hideous monsters in the earth and water were roared and hotly pursued, they usually took refuge and hid themselves in the subterranean passages directly under the spot inhabited by men, and in their endeavors to dislodge them, the Thunders missed sometimes their aim and thus struck their own friends. When overtaken by a hurricane in the water, the Indians invoked some sea god to interfere in their behalf, throwing a piece of tobacco into the water at the same time, or a little dog with a stone tied to its neck. In dry seasons they called upon the Thunders to bring down rain ; also when they were surrounded and reduced to great straits in war, that the rain might slacken the bow strings and render them useless, when of course both parties would be obliged to cease fighting.

To the Thunders and other inferior deities they occasionally offered sacrifices, but instead of consuming the victim by fire or otherwise