

after him. Lastly, the women cut off their hair and strew it over the grave, to which several go by turns for the space of six months, in order to bewail the dead three times a day. The Paraoustis of the neighbouring villages come also to pay their last duty to the deceased.

Almost the same ceremonies are used upon the death of any of the ministers of their religion, who are likewise the physicians of the country, and differ but little from the jugglers of Canada, unless it be that they are more addicted to sorceries; and besides they have to do with a more superstitious people. Almost the whole education which they give their children consists in training them up to run well, without any distinction of sex; and prizes are proposed for such as excel in this exercise. Hence it comes that all of them, both men and women, are of surprising agility. One perceives them at the top of the highest trees before, as it were, one sees them climb. They are very dexterous in drawing the bow, and darting a kind of javelin, which they use in war with success. Lastly, they swim very fast, and even the women, though loaded with their children, which they carry in their arms, or on their backs, cross great rivers by swimming.

M. Albert, having visited several Paraoustis, one of them, whose name was Andusta, invited him to a very singular kind of festival, celebrated in honour of a deity which is called Toya. By the laws of the country no strangers are admitted to it; so that great precaution was taken to let the French see it, without their being perceived by the natives. Andusta first led them into a large place, or area, of a round figure, which the