

A TSYMPSEAN LEGEND.

PERHAPS there is no nation in the world more given to mythology than the Indians. Theirs is not a written language, therefore their legends have been handed down from father to son, just as many of our own traditions and legends have been preserved. The following is an old Tsympsean tale (as told by an old chief of the tribe). I heard it while paying a visit to the village of Metlakahtla last fall. I have seen the mark in the rock where the doctor is supposed to have fallen, but will leave you to find out how it came there:

"Many years ago," the Chief began, "Before the white man came, the little village to Metlakahtla was built. The village in those days was composed of tents or wigwams, built on little islands, where small patches of ground were cultivated. In this village there lived a doctor chief, as it were. One day he was missing. No one had seen him go away. Everything was mystery. There was much searching, but, nothing could be found of the missing man. However, we will leave his people and follow him in his wanderings.

One evening as he was sitting outside his tent his attention was attracted towards a peculiar looking object approaching him in the dusk. As it came nearer he saw it was a man, but such a man. His head was covered with eagles' feathers, a string of beaver's teeth hung around his neck and his body was clothed in marmot skins. Altogether he was a weird looking object. Beckoning to the doctor to follow him, he turned and entered the woods. The doctor followed. No sooner had he entered than he fell into a deep trance. He was borne away by the spirits to Spirit-land. When he awoke he found himself in a strange, but beautiful, country. The land was one where peace reigned supreme, and bloodshed was a thing unknown. Everyone was engaged in some work and our doctor found much to interest him. His first act was to explore the country. This done he began to study the inhabitants of this strange land. He took the greatest interest in the experiments of the spirit doctors. Much as he knew of the administering of medicines to mortals, he had much to learn. After awhile he began to wonder how he could return to earth and there impart to others what he himself had learned. Approaching the Chief of the Spirit-land he said: "I want to go to earth to tell others what I have seen during my stay here." Then the chief told him that his wish would soon be granted. Preparations were made for his departure, and one clear night in Spring the Chief told him that he was to depart in a few hours. The people were gathered together to bid good-bye to the strange mortal who had been with them so long. Suddenly there was a burst of thunder, the clouds were rent in twain, and he gently dropped to earth. Where he fell he left the imprint in the rock. He returned to his house and again took up his work where he had left it when he was spirited away that clear Fall evening. For awhile, people did not believe his strange story, but when he showed them where he had fallen they were forced to believe his story true. There the mark remains to this day, and all visitors

to the village pay a visit to the spot which is sacred in Indian mythology."

NOTE.—Now that the missionaries have come to the country, the Indians have given up their old superstitions and have embraced Christianity to a greater or less extent. One instance of their giving up their idolatry was the case of an old Indian Chieftess, a friend of mine. Before a party of her friends she took her family crest and burned it in the stove. Great indignation was expressed by her friends, for the crests are held as sacred. Turning to them the Chieftess said: "To keep that would be wrong. I would be a heathen if I kept it and if I am going to be a Christian I want to be one out and out!"

British Columbia.

"KUMTUX."

MANITOBA CONFERENCE BRANCH.

Miss Stella Grundy, Cor. Sec'y of Grace Church Mission Circle, Winnipeg, writes:

"In 1890 a Mission Band of thirty-four members was organized in connection with Grace Church W. M. S. by Mrs. Whittle and Mrs. Banfield, under whose kind and sympathetic manner the young girls became intensely interested in spreading the Gospel of Christ. They deeply mourned when Mrs. Banfield passed from her earthly home to her reward in heaven, but her memory remains ever dear and helpful to the members of the Band. Shortly after this bereavement the Band received another check, when Mrs. Whittle, owing to ill health, had to give up the work. Since that time very many of the original members have left the city, and now the membership is twenty-two. Still the decreased membership does not indicate a lack of interest in the Band or Circle.

Shortly after organizing the members decided to educate one of the girls in the Chinese Home at Victoria. This they did until Gertrude, the girl chosen, was given in marriage to a city missionary in Vancouver. She was a highly intellectual, industrious and sweet tempered girl, and will most ably fill her present position. Until this year the Band did a great deal of city missionary work in the way of making and distributing clothing among the deserving poor.

Last year Miss Hargrave, returning from the foreign field, revived the missionary interest, which, owing to frequent changes in leadership, had decreased among the girls. Under her sympathetic and wise direction as president, the Band was reorganized upon a much firmer basis than formerly, and now the members have every confidence in their success as a Missionary Circle.

Since September we have raised \$56.80, \$30.00 of which is utilized in supporting and educating a girl in the Japanese orphanage at Kanawaza, named Nakamura Tamaki San. She is nine years old and is to remain under the direction of the Orphanage for ten years, or until she has reached the age of 20. We have been informed that she is a very intelligent, earnest child, and we pray God's blessing upon this endeavor. The monthly meetings of this Society, which are made both interesting and instructive, through the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Birch, our present president, are well attended and the members show an earnestness and oneness of purpose in the furtherance of God's message and saving power which augurs well for future success."