

PREFACE

THE folklore of our North American Indians is rich and varied, some legends conveying philosophy in a fable-like form, others possessing the fascination of quaint old fairy tales. Interesting and instructive facts are found in their animal stories, while the depth and beauty of many others remind us of the stories of the Old Testament, and from all these legends a little may be learned of the habits and thoughts of the early Indians. We are accustomed to think of them as uncivilized and barbarous, but we come to realize the extent and beauty of their imagination and we find much to admire and respect in their obedience to authority, their deference for old age, their love and care for the young, and their reverential awe for the Mighty Spirit whose presence spoke to them from all nature. Each tribe possesses its own legendary lore which is handed down from father to son and held very sacred by them. The story-teller