

is their most practical Deity. The Supreme Being of the Yuroks is called Gard, who created all things and gave them their language. The name of the Supreme Being of the Wintuns signifies the Great Spirit of the West, and the Maidus and Palligawonaps describe him as the old man, the Creator. But most of the California tribes evidently had but little idea of a Supreme Being, except so far as he dwelt in the Coyote. He it was who created man, animals, everything, and, according to some, even the world,—not exactly the Coyote, but the great active principle residing in the Coyote.*

The Clatsops, Cathlamets, Chénooks, and Wahkiakums around the mouth of the Columbia River believe in an omnipotent, benevolent Spirit, the Creator of all things. Usually he inhabits the sun, but occasionally wings his way through the ethereal regions, and sees all that is doing on the earth, and thunders, lightnings, and tempests are ways in which he exhibits his displeasure.†

The Twanas or Skokomish Indians of Puget Sound believe in a Great Being, not the Saghalie Tyee, or Wis Sowulus or Chief above, of whom they have learned of the whites, but one whose name is Dó-ki-batl, the Changer, because long ago he changed many of the ancient race of beings into deer, beaver, birds, stones, and the like. The Clallams had a similar belief, though they thought that the sun was God, and their children were told to be afraid to do wrong because the sun would see them and be angry.

The Makahs,‡ Nez Percés, and Flatheads likewise believe in a Great Spirit, the Blackfeet that they were created by him, and the Rocky Mountain Indians invoke his aid.§

The Haidahs believe the Great Solar Spirit to be the Creator and Supreme Ruler, but some worship nothing. The Nootkas have a tradition of a Great Supernatural Teacher and Benefactor, who came to them from Puget Sound long ago; the Ahts believe the sun and moon, as man and wife, to be Supreme; the Okanagans have a good Spirit, called Skyappe, to whom they sometimes pray; the Thlinkeets have no Deity, but believe the raven to be the Creator; and the Aleuts recognised a Creator God, who made the world, but do not worship him.||

* S. Powers in *Contributions to N. A. Ethnology*, vol. iii. pp. 24, 35, 64, 161, 182, 214, 241, 287, 394.

† Dunn, *On Oregon Territory*, p. 90.

‡ Swan's *Makah Indians of Cape Flattery*, p. 61.

§ Dunn, *On Oregon Territory*, pp. 212, 213, 219.

|| Bancroft's *Native Races of the Pacific States*, vol. iii. p. 141, &c.