

son with the untutored savages, are so proud of our theological knowledge? We also conceive Him, as a being unmanacled by the decrees of time, existing before them, and consequently incommensurably *old*. Does not Daniel, in the same chapter, call him three times the "Ancient of Days" '*hattig iamîn*'? Nay, those who maintain that there is a certain affinity between the Indians of the North-West and the Israelites, will find perhaps here a precious argument in favour of their thesis; for the quotation in Daniel proves this expression to have been popular among the Hebrews at the time of the Captivity.

With the Biblical Genesis and Geology the Indian tradition affirms the total submersion of the terrestrial globe in the beginning, and its consequent emersion, the real succession in the development of creation, expressed, as in the Mosaic account, by the mysterious term of *day*, and in the last place the apparition of Man.

The Demiurge is assisted by certain animals familiar to the Black-feet; while we listen to this proof of Indian fetichism, have we not at the same time a faint echo of Revelation, showing us the Angels, witnesses and perhaps co-operators in the mundane Creation?

From the moment of the creation of man the Black-foot Genesis compound in the Old One a double biblical personage: the Demiurge and Adam. Hence it is that distinct mention is made of the woman only. The origin of the latter is related in a manner wonderfully analogous to the Biblical recital; there is

nothing left out, even to the mysterious sleep of Adam.

Then came the sad account of the fall and its fatal consequences. Instinctively the Indian thought has dressed it in its present fanciful forms, and it is touching to see the state of bliss, which is the dream of the savage, and of which the primitive sin has deprived him; but, beyond the form, there is at the bottom a marvellous correspondence with the Bible. The woman it is who is the prime cause of all evil; the Old One inasmuch as he represents Adam yields to the suggestions of the woman; inasmuch as he is Demiurge sanctions and pronounces his irrevocable decrees. Thus the echo of the great drama of the Garden of Eden has been carried unbroken even to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. And remark that we have here an indigenous tradition and not something of European importation; the Indian stamp is authentic enough, and the tribe of Black feet is about the only one of the North West which has unfortunately remained refractory to the influence of the Gospel.

In finishing let us express the hope that the other Missionaries of the North-West would follow the example of Father Legal, and of so many Missionaries in other parts of the world. Their researches, on account of the great number of years of infinite relationship with the savages, are far more authentic and unbiassed than the accounts of travellers or others who go amongst the Indians through curiosity or in search of facts in support of some pet theory, and whose work is nearly always cursorily done. G.