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The First Families of Canada—Continued.

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TO have a correct view of the early history of any ancient people we must carefully study their mythology. To the general reader the mythology of the Red-men is nothing but a mass of silly stories; but when there is a competent guide to instruct those who are interested in the civilization of this people, there will follow new revelations of the unity of their mythology, and of its influence upon the education of the race. There is a marked distinction to be made between the myths and traditions of the Indians. The former are stories representing natural phenomena, and were the means employed by the parents for teaching their children lessons relating to natural history. These do not, therefore, represent the actual deeds that have been performed. The latter are tales representing actual historical facts, and relate to deeds of warfare and adventure that have been done by the tribe or members thereof.

The beauty of their mythology, which has many things in common with the Hindoo and Scandinavian mythologies, reveals the strength of their intellect and imagination, and the religious sentiments that pervade the whole of their lives.

The most renowned personage in Micmac mythology is Glooscap, a hero whose attributes are a strange combination