

a twelvemonth washed herself, she looks once more neat and clean.

FAIRIES.

The heathen Indians all believe in the existence of those imaginary little folks called *fairies*. The Ojebways call them *mamagwase-wug*, the hidden or covered beings. They believe them to possess the power of invisibility; but that they do sometimes shew themselves; many of the old Indians affirm that they have seen and talked with them. They say that they are about two or three feet high, walk erect, and have the human form, but that their faces are covered over with short hair. Several places have been pointed out to me as their residence before the white people became so numerous. One is a large pond near Burlington Bay, where the old Indians say they frequently saw them in a stone canoe; and when pursued they would paddle to a high bank, the moment the canoe struck the bank all would disappear, and nothing would be heard but a distant rumbling noise. The Indians suppose they had their abode inside the bank. Another tribe of fairies were said formerly to have resided on the east bank of the River Credit, about a mile from the Lake, where they often shewed themselves.

They are reported to be particularly fond of pieces of scarlet cloth, and smart prints, and whenever they appear to an Indian if he can only bestow some such gaudy present upon them, however small, the giver is sure to be rewarded either with long life, or success in hunting.

GIANTS OR WAINDEGOOS.

In my early days, I have often listened with wonder and deep attention to the stories related of the *waindegoos* or giants.

They are represented as beings tall as the pine trees, and powerful as the Munedoos.

In their travels they pull down and turn aside immense forests, as a man would the high grass he passes through.

They are said to live on human flesh, and whenever they meet an Indian they are sure to have a good meal; being also invulnerable to the shot of an arrow or bullet, they are the constant dread of the Indians. Persons who have been known to eat human flesh from starvation are also called *Waindegoos* after the giants.

INDIAN NAMES.

The names of the Indians are generally derived from some of the following objects—the sun, moon, stars, sky, clouds, wind, lakes, rivers, trees, animals, fowls, snakes.

As the wise and aged Indians have the best knowledge of the ancient names of their forefathers, and are the most capable of inventing new ones, the office of giving names is generally deputed to them. The following are specimens of Indian names, with their literal translations.—*Na-wuh-je-gee-zhe-gra-be*, The Sloping Sky. *O-me-nwah-je-wun*,—His pleasant flowing stream. *Na-ning-ah-se-ga*,—The sparkling light or Sun. *Puh-oom-lwa we-dung*,—The approaching roaring Thunder.—*Ah-zuh-wah-nuh-qua-diva-be*,—The cloud that rolls beyond. *Nah-wuh-qua-yah-se-ga*,—The noon day shining sun. *Wah-be-gwuh-na*,—The white feather. *O-zah-wuh-shko-gee-zhig*,—The blue sky.

The female names are distinguished from the males, by the feminine termination of *quay*, or *goo-quay*. Any of the above names can be rendered feminine, as for example :—*Na-ning-ah-se-ga-quay*,—The sparkling light female.—*Nah-wuh-qua-yah-se-ga-quay*,—The noon day shining sun female. *O-zah-wuh-shko-gee-zhig-oo-quay*,—The blue sky female.

A singular fancy prevails among the Ojebways, with respect to mentioning their own names. When an Indian is asked his name, he will look at some bystander, and request him to answer. This reluctance arises from an impression they receive when young, that if they repeat their own names it will prevent their growth, and they will be small in stature. On account of this unwillingness to tell their names, many strangers have fancied that they either had none, or had forgotten them.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

In forming marriage contracts, the most common practice observed by the Ojebways is for the parents of both parties to make up the match, very often without the consent or even knowledge of the young people. Sometimes this agreement is entered into when the children are young, and it generally happens that they yield to the arrangements made by their parents, not only without any courtship, but