

as one of general prevalence, marking a certain stage in the progress of society. Others consider it to be merely a special and local manifestation of the associative impulse, frequently important, but by no means universal or essential in any stage. The fact that, while it prevails among the Iroquois, the Dakotas, and the Ojibways, it is not found among the Crees or the tribes of Oregon, seems to lend countenance to this view, and gives, at all events, particular interest to the inquiry in the present case. This and other questions remain for future investigation. For the reasons which have been stated, the present report is unavoidably imperfect. It is offered chiefly for the purpose of preserving the information which has already been obtained from sources of the highest authority, and of thus affording a trustworthy basis for further inquiry.

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