

THE FEAST OF THE VIRGINS.¹

A LEGEND OF THE DAKOTAS.

(In pronouncing Dakota words give "a" the sound of "ah"—"e" the sound of "a"—"i" the sound of "e" and "u" the sound of "oo," sound "ee" as in English. The numerals, 1, 2, etc., refer to explanatory notes in the appendix.)

THE GAME OF BALL.²

Clear was the sky as a silver shield;
The bright sun blazed on the frozen field.
On ice-bound river and white-robed prairie
The diamonds gleamed in the flame of noon;
But cold and keen were the breezes airy
Wa-zí-ya³ blew from his icy throne.

On the solid ice of the silent river
The bounds are marked, and a splendid prize.
A robe of black-fox lined with beaver—
Is hung in view of the eager eyes;
And fifty merry Dakota maidens,
The fairest-moulded of woman kind,
Are gathered in groups on the level ice.
They look on the robe and its beauty gladdens,
And maddens their hearts for the splendid prize.
Lo the rounded ankles and raven hair
That floats at will on the wanton wind,
And the round brown arms to the breezes bare.