

THE TOTEM POLE.

LEGENDS AND TRADITIONS OF THE ALASKA INDIANS.

TALES OF THE TOTEM POLES—NE-KIL-STLASS THE CREATOR—THE RAVEN GOD.

There are, or were, four large and important tribes in Alaska, the names of which, in the Tsimshian language, are Kish-poot-wadda, by far the most numerous hereabouts, have for symbols the fin-back whale in the sea, the grizzly bear on land, the grouse in the air and the sun and stars. The next clan, known as the Canadda, have for symbols the frog, the raven, the star fish and the bullhead. The Lacheboo, another clan, had the heron and the grizzly bear for totems. Lackshkeak, the eagle, the beaver and the halibut.

These creatures, however, are only regarded as the visible representatives of the powerful and mystical beings or genii of Indian mythology, and as all of one group are said to be of the same kindred, so all the members of the same class, whose heraldic symbols are same are counted as blood relations, and strange to say, this relationship holds good should the persons belong to different or even hostile tribes or speak a different language, or be located thousands of miles apart and this relationship is perpetuated in the face of obliterating circumstances. The Indians point back to a remote age when their ancestors lived in a beau-