

In prairies broad and beautiful, bedecked
 With flowers of every hue, and belts of trees
 Breaking the dull monotony, which else
 Had tired the eye, and rendered less desired
 This land now coveted by all mankind.

Well-pleasing to the criticizing gaze
 Of Nanabush, these prairies smile around ;
 And to the butterfly of talent great
 For such a task, the contract he awards
 To consummate the continent required.

He now employs † o-mee-mee to compute
 The size of this vast island, stretching far
 Beyond the ken of any human age.

The dove sets forth, on pinion swift she flies ;
 But unto Nanabush returns no more,
 Bewildered in interminably flight.

He then sends forth * kah-gahze to obtain
 Admeasurement of all the land create.
 The raven ventures forth, but days and weeks
 Are found to intervene e're he returns.

At length with tired wing, and frame reduced,
 He perched one evening on a pine tree top
 Above the head of Nanabush, who chode
 Him for his dalliance. He made reply :—
 Think not that I have wasted precious time
 On pleasure, neither left undone my task.

The land created is so wide and vast,
 I scarce surveyed the swamps muk-kwah has made,
 And flew the forests o'er of wah-wah-shkash ;
 Nor winged my way on tired pinion wide
 O'er that expanse of space immeasurable,
 Which light-winged ma-man-gwa has covered
 With fertile prairies, ere with weary wing,
 I hastened home, and to my chief report
 What lands unlimited he rules supreme.

Then Nanabush rejoicingly replied :—
 Since thou this wondrous feat hast well performed ;
 Take as reward, thy lawful lasting right,
 All earthly kingdoms are thy ‡ o-nah-gun
 Whence thou shalt sup, nor ever lack for food.

†O-mee-mee.—Dove.

*Kah-gahze —Raven.

‡O-nah-gun.—Dish.