

many of the legends referring to Glooskap, the great divinity of these Northern tribes.

And here let me state that the Indians were never, of old, Monotheists, nor was the Great Spirit, of whom we hear so much, known to them before the coming of the white men.<sup>2</sup> Their true religion was simply Shamanism, or sorcery, exactly like that of the Eskimo or Tartars, and their gods, men who by magic and bravery combined had been gradually exalted by tradition, until some one was finally regarded by a very few among their thinkers and myth-makers, as the chief of them all. But that there existed among them any idea of an all-wise, all-good, omnipotent Jehovah is not true, for this is not the first but the last idea which comes in the gradual formation of religion.

We have a startling proof of this, at the very outset, in the name of the deity or heroic demi-god of these tribes, which is Glooskap, meaning the Liar—truly a strange title for a god. The Indians explain this by saying that he left earth, promising to return to his people, and that as he has not kept his word they have given him this appellation. But Dr. Brinton, a great authority, believes that it was originally bestowed as a compliment to that craftiness which is among all savages as great a virtue, as it was among the Italians of the days of Machiavelli.

His history is briefly this. The first being—a woman—bore twins, of whom Glooskap was the elder, and Malsum, the Wolf, the younger. The neighbouring Iroquois, who have developed a Dualism

<sup>2</sup> [It seems to be generally admitted that the Indians did believe in an all-powerful, all-directing Spirit, though they paid no positive worship to him. (*Vide Rees' Cycl.*, sub art. "Indians."—Eds.)