

Ramp. Anthropol. Folk-lore C.

with the author's compliments

TALES OF THE MISSISSAGUAS.

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I.

DURING the month of August, 1888, the writer paid a visit to the Mississaguas of Scugog Island, Ontario County, Ontario. Besides taking down a vocabulary of some 600 words, and obtaining much general information regarding the history, condition, and habits of these people, he procured a number of their legends and folk-tales. The most of these were obtained from Mrs. Bolin, an intelligent woman of some sixty-five years of age. Her Indian name is *Nāwīgishkōké* (the sun in the centre of the sky). These stories are only known to the older generation of the Indians at Scugog, and soon will be lost in oblivion, if not taken down at once. As the Indians there are all Christians by profession, it was with some difficulty that the writer succeeded in getting them to repeat what they stigmatized in some cases as "nonsense." The tales here recorded were told by *Nāwīgishkōké*.¹

ANIMAL STORIES. I. ORIGIN OF THE FOX-BIRD (ĀN'UK).

Mēh'nwishēh' ekwā'sens gī'wān'nishin mītigwā'djakwā mīdúsh

Long ago a girl wandered in the woods and

kīānūkōwit.

became a fox-bird.

2. THE RABBIT, THE FROG, AND THE MOOSE.

Ōmúkakī dúsh kīwītā'ganin wābōō'son. Mīdúsh ōmúkakī

The Frog joined in with the Rabbit. And the Frog

kibāmōō'sed mīdúsh pūtagúshing wintāma'wud in'ī'wh wābōō'son.

went walking and when he arrived he told him the Rabbit.

"Mānitōonemē'h'ūg! āyawāsi'wttin tūkuk." Mīdúsh kīnīssawud

"Some mysterious sign! on every other hill he steps." And then they killed

mōō'son. "Anī'nginā kihīdjitchīgā'djā pīdjīpā'itiwud

the Moose. "What would you do running towards

mīgiskū'nitā kā'siwuk?" "Dābā'shka'n kīmīskwāpōō'ninan mīdúsh

the Wolf?" "I (would) burst vessel in which blood is and

īmā^h kanītanīssiyā^hpun."

in there go in with (the blood)."

¹ The tales are given as nearly as possible in the narrator's own words. In the alphabet used to record the Indian words, the consonants have the same value as in English, except that *t* and *d*, *b* and *p*, *k* and *g*, sometimes represent the same sound which is a medium between them. The vowels have their continental sounds, and when long are marked. The short *u* is the *u* in *but*, the short *o* that in *not*, the short *i* that in *pin*, and the short *e* that in *pen*; when strongly accented this short *e* becomes the *e* in *fresh*, drawn out considerably more than the English sound. The *a*, when not long, is between the *a* of *wad* and the vowel in *but*.