

bands, of which the men and women have separate organizations and separate ceremonies.* Rites connected with the eagle-trapping will be noticed hereafter. In one of his letters descriptive of the Minnetarees, Catlin gives an account of a green-corn dance,† and devotes a plate to illustrating the same.‡ He does not directly say that this is a Minnetaree festivity, but introduces the description in a way calculated to lead the casual reader to suppose that it is such. I have shown the plate to several of these Indians, and have given them the description of the dance, but have been invariably informed that they never had such a ceremony. In the same letter, he speaks of an improvident waste of the harvest in gluttonous eating of the green corn. His remarks on this point certainly do not apply to the Hidatsa. In Chapter XIII of his work, Boller gives a brief description of a dance or paduididi performed by the Goose Band, an organization of the old women of this tribe; and, in Chapter XIX, he describes certain ceremonies of the White Cow Band. The latter band, originally, I believe, belongs to the Mandan women, but Hidatsa women are now admitted to its mysteries.

§ 23. MYTHOLOGY AND SUPERSTITIONS.—*Objects of veneration.*—The object of their greatest reverence is, perhaps, Itsikamahidiš, the *First Made*, or First in Existence. They sometimes designate him as Itakatétaš, or *Old Man Immortal*. Some Indians say that itsikamahidiš means *he who first made*, but such a rendering is not in accordance with the present etymology of the language. They assert that he made all things, the stars, the sun, the earth, and the first representatives of each species of animals and plants, but that no one made him. He also, they say, instructed the forefathers of the tribes in all the ceremonies and mysteries now known to them.

Mahopa, or Mahopa-ictiaš, is the equivalent in the Hidatsa language for those terms in other Indian tongues which are usually translated "The Great Spirit". In this language, it may be (figuratively, perhaps) applied to the Itakatétaš, or any-

* See ické, ihokaicke, ihokamiaicke, mašukaicke, masukakadista, mašukamadaki, midaicke, and padnididi, in the Dictionary.

† p. 189.

‡ Plate 75.