

derivative from *dodaim*, a town or village:" to which there is only this objection, that no such word as "*dodaim*," meaning "town or village," is found in the Chippeway or any other Algonkin language. Gen. Cass, in a well-known article in the *North American Review* (vol. xxii., p. 63), explained this name as denoting "the representation of the animal from which the tribe is named. . . The figure of this sacred animal is the *Totem*, which every individual of the tribe affixes, whenever his mark is necessary, or wherever he wishes to leave a memorial of himself. This beloved symbol adheres to him in death, and is painted upon the post which marks his grave." The Indian *totem* is neither a "favorite spirit," nor merely "the representation" of an animal. It may be better defined as the animal, vegetable, or other object, real or imaginary, whose name or symbol distinguishes one family (*gens*) from others of the same tribe or nation, and which to that family is usually an object of superstitious regard. The name of the *totem* becomes a family name, and its representation may be regarded as the ancestral coat of arms. "It differs not from our institution of surnames"—says John Tanner (or his editor, Dr. James.)—"except that the obligations of friendship and hospitality, and the restraint upon intermarriage, which it imposes are more scrupulously regarded."² Though unquestionably of Algonkin origin, *totem* is not an Indian word. It comes from a root signifying 'to have, to possess,' and in the passive, 'to belong to.' In the Massachusetts dialect, as written by Eliot, this root appears in the primary verb *oht-au* 'he has,' the verbal *ohtoönk* 'a having,' a possession, *ohteuk* 'a field' (appropriated, or in cultivation), *wut-ohtu* 'his belonging,' used by Eliot for "an inhabitant of" or "belonging to" a tribe, family, or village, and *wut-ohtim-oïn* that *to which* a person or place belongs, the village, family, or tribe he *is of*. The prefix *oo*, before a vowel *oot* or *wut*, represents the pronoun of the third person. The 'm, after the root, is possessive. *Totem*

<sup>1</sup> So, the Abbé Domenech, *Voyage Pittoresque dans les Grands Déserts du Nouv Monde* (Paris, 1862), p. 303: "Le mot *totem* est dérivé d'un terme générique des langues indiennes du Nord qui veut dire *ville* ou *village*," etc.

<sup>2</sup> Tanner's Narrative, p. 213.