

destroyed, and those which remain are very small in comparison with what they once were.

Their mode of life is the same now as it was three hundred years ago, and their character, where they have lived far from the haunts of the white men, is unaltered. The Indians believe in one great and good God, whom they call the "Great Spirit;" they pray to him, and thank him for his mercies, and they all seem to have an idea of a future state. Many tribes have some notion of rewards and punishments in a future life, and no tribe has ever been found to worship any kind of idol. Yet their ideas of religion are very imperfect, for they not only believe in bad spirits, but worship them from fear, as fervently as they adore the Great Spirit from love and respect.

They have many superstitions too about dreams and omens; but perhaps not more than many ignorant English people have.

Revenge with an Indian is considered a duty. Christ has forbidden us to revenge injuries, therefore revenge with us is a crime, whether in small matters or in great—but the Indians know not of Christ. Their gratitude likewise is great, and they pride themselves on never forgetting either an injury or a benefit.

Having given a short account of the mode of life and character of the North American Indians, I shall now relate a number of entertaining stories which I have heard and read about them. If my young readers are desirous of learning more of their history, they must endeavour to procure the book lately published by Mr. Catlin, which is full of the most interesting descriptions of Indian life, and is adorned with some hundred beautiful drawings, representing their dresses, their sports, their hunting parties, and the magnificent scenery which surrounds them.

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