

THE MYTHOLOGY, LEGENDS, AND FOLK-LORE OF THE ALGONKINS.

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OF all branches of learning, Anthropology (including Archæology and Folk-lore) is most interesting to the merely general reader, for the same reason which makes a museum interesting, even to a child. For it deals with all that is strange and rare, curious or interesting in Man himself, and as Goethe says, varying an old Latin proverb, "Man is properly the only object that interests Man."

I propose to speak, on this occasion, of a subdivision of this science, embracing a subject which, previous to my investigations in it, was, I may truly say, almost unknown to the most inquiring scholars. I refer to the Mythology, Legends, and Folk-lore of the North-Eastern Algonkins of North America, inhabiting the State of Maine, and the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and of whom there are only a few hundreds now surviving in each of the four tribes to which I particularly refer. These are the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Mic-Mac, Malisete, and St. Francis or Abenaki Indians. They are all Christians, mostly Roman Catholics, and are, with few exceptions, taught to read and write at Mission schools. They live in the manner of the whites,