

some god, and looking forward to the promised reward at the end of the day,—they rise before the sun, take a piece of charcoal which they pound to powder, and with it blacken their faces; (the females only blacken the upper part of their faces); during their fast they abstain from all food and drinks; towards sunset they wash their faces, and then eat a little broth or soup which has been prepared for them, and in this way they go on for several successive days, the longer the better, and the more munedoos they will be likely to propitiate. All this time they notice every remarkable event, dream, or supernatural sound, and whichever of these makes the most impression on their minds during their fast, becomes their *personal munedoo* as long as they live, and in all emergencies and dangers they will call upon him for assistance. By the agency of these *munedoos*, they pretend to possess the power of bewitching one another, performing extraordinary cures, foretelling future events, and vanquishing their enemies.—If they chance to dream of seeing a *munedoo* standing on a rock in the Lake, they imagine they have obtained the assistance of a powerful god. To dream of seeing an old grey-headed man, is taken as a token of a long life; or of a pretty woman, that they will be blest with more wives than one. If they happen to dream of sharp-pointed instruments, or any thing that is proof against the arrow, tomahawk, or bullet, they fancy themselves proof against the shot of their enemy. When they dream of animals or fowls, they imagine they are invested with the same power of self defence in danger as these creatures possess. A poor Indian at Lake Huron used to boast that he had obtained the spirit of the bat!

OF THEIR TOOTAIMS.

Their belief concerning their divisions into tribes is, that many years ago the Great Spirit gave his red children their *Tootaims* or Tribes, in order that they might never forget that they were all related to each other. When an Indian in travelling meets with a strange band of Indians, all he has to do is to seek for those bearing the same emblem as his tribe, and having made it known that he belongs to their *Tootaims*, he is sure to be treated as a relative. Formerly it was considered unlawful for parties of the same tribes to intermarry, but of late years this custom is not observed. I have re-

marked that when the English speak of the different *nations* of Indians, they generally call them *Tribes*, which term is quite erroneous, as each *nation* is subdivided into a number of tribes, or clans, called "*Tootaims*, bearing some resemblance to the divisions of the twelve tribes of Israel mentioned in Scripture, and each tribe is distinguished by certain animals or things, as for instance, the Ojebway nation have the following *Tootaims*: the eagle, reindeer, otter, bear, buffalo, beaver, catfish, pike, birch-bark, white oak tree, bear's liver, &c.—The Mohawk nation have only three divisions, or tribes,—the turtle, the bear, and the wolf.

The *Eagle* tribe is called by us *Messissaugee*, a term commonly used by the "white people when speaking of the Indians residing at the River Credit, Rice Lake, Alnwick, Mud Lake, and Balsam Lake; but it is incorrect when it is applied to them as a body, for in these bands are found remnants of almost all the tribes existing among the Ojebways; and the Eagle Tribe or *Messissaugee* does not form more than about one quarter of the whole number of Indians residing at the above-mentioned places.

Another common mistake is, that the *Messissaugee* Indians are different from the Ojebways, whereas they are a part of that nation, and speak the same language.

From the great number of tribes found amongst the different nations, many of which are now extinct, there is no doubt but that they were once more numerous than they are now.

THEIR NOTIONS OF A FUTURE STATE.

All the Indians believe in the existence of the soul after the death of the body; but their ideas on this subject are very confused and absurd. The little knowledge they have is derived from persons who have been in trances, and travelled in their dreams to the unknown world of spirits, which they believe is towards the *sun-setting*. They believe that the souls of brave warriors, good hunters, the virtuous, and the hospitable, go there, and spend an eternity in carnal pleasures, such as feasting, dancing, singing, &c.; but the soul of the coward, the lazy hunter, the stingy, the liar, the thief, the adulterer, and the unmerciful, they imagine will wander about in unknown regions of darkness, and be exposed to the rage of wolves, bears,