

sion to the flesh of that animal, as well as the people who eat it.

This tradition proceeds to relate, that the great bird having finished his work made an arrow which was to be preserved with great care, and to remain untouched; but that the Chepewyans were so devoid of understanding as to carry it away, from which time, the bird has never since appeared.

According to another tradition, they originally came from another country, inhabited by very wicked people; and had traversed a great lake, which was narrow, shallow and full of islands, where they had suffered great misery, it being always winter, with ice and deep snow. They believe, also, that in ancient times their ancestors lived till their feet were worn out with walking and their throats with eating. They describe a deluge; when the waters spread over the whole earth, except the highest mountains, on the tops of which they preserved themselves.

They believe that immediately after death they pass into another world, where they arrive at a large river, on which they embark in a stone canoe, and that a gentle current bears them on to an extensive lake, in the centre of which is a most beautiful island; and that in view of this delightful abode, they receive that judgment for their conduct during life, which terminates their final state and unalterable allotment. If their good actions are declared to predominate, they are landed upon the island, where there is no end to their happiness. But if their bad actions weigh down the balance, the stone canoe sinks at once, and leaves them up to their chin in water, to behold and regret the rewards enjoyed by the good, and eternally struggling, but with unavailing endeavours to reach the blissful island from which they are excluded forever.