

INDIAN LEGENDS.

LEGEND OF NANABUSH.

Where Father Huron laps the rugged shores
Of Manitoulin's Isle, and where Cape Hurde
And Cabot's Head projecting, face the North,
And point to other isles magnificent
Which lie beneath the North Shore's rocky brow;
'Tis here hath found a home that tribe renowned,
The far-famed children of great Nanabush,
Canadian Red Men named Ojibbewas.
Who tell in legends lengthy, strange and grand,
How came their bold progenitor to earth;
And how he wrought and warred prodigiously—
What miracles performed, what foes he slew—
What blessings he procured for human kind.

They thus narrate:—Ma-we-shah (long ago)
There lived an aged man, to whom were born
Twelve stalwart sons—one only daughter fair,
Whose queenly beauty was surpassed alone,
By maiden virtue and true modesty.

She sought no marital alliances
With dusky braves, but waited on her sire,
And cheered his heart, while age crept on apace.

A strange desire possessed the burning soul
Of Nanabush, to leave Chee-by ah-kee,*
And visit earth in a mysterious way.
So with Chee-by-yah-boog, his brother, he
Entered the womb of this same maiden fair;
Conceived immaculate or nobly born
Of * Shah-wunne Nodin, their tender sire.

*Chee-by ah-kee—The Spirit Land.

*Shah-wunne Nodin—South wind.