

classification, entirely linguistic, adopted by Major Powell, of Washington, the name of every group terminates in the syllable *an*. Thus we have the Shoshonian, the Coahuiltecan, the Yuman, the Atticapan, and so on. The races or groups common to Canada and the United States are the Algonquin or Algonquian, the Huron-Iroquois, Wyandot-Iroquois or Iroquoian, the Dakotan or Siouan, the Tinné or Athabaskan, the Hyperborean, and the Columbian. In fact, there is not a single great family or group pertaining exclusively to Canada,—the Hyperborean and Athabaskan, which might be deemed entirely ours, crossing the border at several points, while some of the Columbian races extend into Washington and Oregon.

Of the great families found only in the United States, the poetic capabilities have been fairly investigated, especially during the last half century. Some of them offer features of great interest, such as the Zunis, of the Pueblo group; the Indians of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, of the Yuma stock; the Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws, and others of the Appalachian race; and the Klamaths, Modocs, Shastas, and other tribes of the Californian family.¹

The traditions, beliefs, dances, and songs of the Zunis, a typical tribe of New Mexican Pueblos, have been carefully collected by Mr. Frank H. Cushing, the story of whose experience in that oasis of semi-civilisation, I had the pleasure of hearing from his own lips in Montreal. His description of his initiation into the Priesthood of the Bow, the most perfectly organised of thirteen Zuni orders, reads like a romance. Song and dance form a prominent feature in all the ceremonies. Even their ordinary language, under the influence of strong emotion, has a perceptible tinge of the poetic, and some of their terms and phrases are quick with startling imagery. For instance, when Mr. Cushing was explaining to them that the earth moved round the sun, one of his hearers exclaimed: "Listen! the Medicine Flower is right. If you gallop past Thunder Mountain, Thunder Mountain moves and you stand still, and besides I have noticed that in summer the great Hanging Snow-bank (the Milky Way) drifts from the left of the Land of Daylight (N.E.) to the right of the World of Waters (S.W.) and in winter from the left of the World of Waters to the right of the Land of Daylight."² Mr. Cushing gives as an almost literal translation from a Zuni folklore tale of winter, the following lines:—

"The rattled-tailed serpents
Have gone into council;
For the god of the ice-caves,
From his home where the white down
Of wind in the Northland
Lies spread out for ever,

¹ For the ethnology, physical characteristics, social usages, religion and traditions of the Hyperborean, Columbian, Californian, and New Mexican groups, and of the wild tribes of Mexico, Central America and the Isthmus of Panama, see H. H. Bancroft's *Native Races of the Pacific States*, vol. i, *passim*. Under the designation of New Mexicans he comprises the nations of New Mexico, Arizona, Lower California, Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Durango, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Northern Zacatecas and Western Texas. See also J. R. Bartlett's *Personal Narrative of Exploration and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua*. Mr. Stephen Powers has industriously collected many of the myths, traditions and songs of the California Indians. Some of them are given in the *Native Races*, vol. iii.

² "Now this is the very way in which early barbaric man, not for poetic affectation, but simply to find the plainest words to convey his thoughts, would talk in metaphors taken from nature." Tylor's *Anthropology*, p. 290.