

become charged with death dealing power so that there was "placed at the east of the Garden of Eden, Cherubims and a flaming sword which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life." As the beautiful bow that spans the emptied storm-cloud, tells us that we need never fear another flood, so the occasional sheen of the northern lights, in our tame temperate sky, may serve to remind us on the other hand that the gates of the Eden of the early time are fast closed and sealed against us. But while we may neither eat of the tree that was in the midst of the garden, nor sit under its shadow, we may speak of it still, and be assured from the impress which the remembrance of it has left upon all the descendants of Adam, that the garden in which it grew was indeed in the centre of the Arctic Zone. It is an interesting fact that almost every race on the face of the earth has its sacred tree or something corresponding to the pristine tree of life; and it is still more interesting, in the present enquiry, to notice that many ancient religions and mythologies agree *"in associating their Paradise Tree with the axis of the world, or otherwise, with equal unmistakableness, locating it at the Arctic Pole of the earth."*

"That the Northmen conceived of the Universe as a tree (the Yggdrasil) is well known to ordinary readers. . . . As the abode of the Gods was in the north polar sky, the summit of the tree was at that point, its base in the south polar abyss, its trunk coincident with the axis of heaven and earth. But while most readers are familiar with this Norse myth, few are aware how ancient and universal an idea it represents. The same tree appears in the earliest Akkadian mythology. And what is precisely to our purpose, it stood at the 'centre or pole of the earth where is the holy house of the Gods.' It is the same tree which in ancient Egyptian Mythology inclosed the sarcophagus of Osiris, and is coincident in position and direction with the axis of the world. The Phœnicians, Syrians, and Assyrians had each their sacred tree in which the Universe was symbolized. The central line of whose trunk was one with the axis of heaven and earth. Among the Persians the legendary tree of Paradise took on two forms, and every indication points us to the northern pole as the place where it stood. . . .

"The Aryans of India, as early as the far off Vedic age, had