

tations and rites performed by one versed in the mysteries, such as a shaman or "medicine-man." Hence the power and influence of these men over their fellows.

All these tribes believe in a kind of demi-god or tribal culture-hero, who gave them their primitive tools and utensils, taught them their arts, and instituted their customs. These beings were mighty magicians or transformers, who bewitched or transformed all who displeased or annoyed them. Isolated or peculiar rocks and other prominent objects within their borders are all believed to have been men or beasts which have been transformed for some cause or other by these mystic beings. Among the Salish tribes it is uniformly believed that in the ancient days, before the time of the great transformers, the beings who then inhabited the world partook of the character of both man and animal, assuming the form of either at will. After the advent of the transformer they were mostly changed, some to animal or vegetal form, and some to human, but the two former, as well as the latter, still possess human or semi-human shades or spirits, and these sometimes appear to people. Their myths and stories are in consequence full of the doings and sayings of human-like animals, and their demi-gods and tribal heroes not infrequently bear the names, and are conceived under the forms, of birds or beasts. Among the northern coast tribes, for instance, the Raven is believed to be the creator of themselves and of their country, and great respect and reverence were formerly paid to all birds of this species. The Haida and Tlingit myths are full of the doings and sayings of Yaylth, the Raven. Among the southern coast and Fraser Delta tribes, Skelau, the Beaver, takes the place of the Raven of the north, while the tribes of the interior put Snikiap, the Coyote, in the forefront of their celestial hierarchy; and many and curious are the stories of the doings and pranks of these creatures. Space will not permit of giving more than a brief example of these stories, and as the Squamish are particularly rich in this kind of lore, one of their shorter stories is selected as example—