

NOTES.

Page 5. *Nis-si kai-yo.* Four Bears.

Page 7. *While the moon was sleeping in his lodge.* The Blackfoot conception for the "dark of the moon."

Page 7. *"Old Man" the father of them all.* In Blackfoot, Napi, the old man. "All animals of the plains at one time heard and knew him, and all birds of the air heard and knew him. All things that he had made understood him when he spoke to them—the birds, the animals, and the people." (Blackfoot Lodge Tales.)

Page 8. *"Hands," or the Hiding of the Bone.* A good description of this popular game is given in Grinnell's Blackfoot Lodge Tales. "Two small, oblong bones were used, one of which had a black ring around it. Those who participated in this game, numbering from two to a dozen, were divided into two equal parties, ranged on either side of the lodge. Wagers were made, each person betting with the one directly opposite him. Then a man took the bones, and by skillfully moving his hands and changing the objects from one to the other, sought to make it impossible for the person opposite him to decide which hand held the marked one. Ten points were the game, counted by sticks, and the side which first got the number took the stakes. A song always accompanied this game, a weird unearthly air—if it can be so called—but when heard at a little distance, very pleasant and soothing. At first a scarcely audible murmur, like the gentle sighing of an evening breeze, it gradually increased in volume and reached a very high pitch, sank quickly to a low bass sound, rose and fell, and gradually died away to be again repeated. The person concealing the bones swayed his body, arms and hands in time to the air, and went through all manner of graceful and intricate movements for the purpose of confusing the guesser."

Page 8. *All the animals to assemble.* The horse was not known to the Indians at this time and consequently does not appear in the group.

Page 10. *In his head the Mouse shall henceforth make his home.* The mouse frequently builds his nest in the brain cavity of the buffalo skulls that lie bleaching on the prairie, and the Indian, obeying the instructions of the Old Man, never disturbs him.