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White Man's Fancy.

THE MAIDEN OF THE MIST.

MODERN fancy portrays the real spirits of the Indian maidens sacrificed to the spirit of Niagara in days gone by, as idealized into the Maiden of the Mist—a mythical and typical maiden dwelling at the base of the Falls, and continuously, both by day and night, disporting herself in the ever-rising and never-falling clouds of mist or spray, awaiting and greeting the spirits of those victims some unfortunate by accident, and some more unfortunate by suicide who from time to time yield up their lives to Niagara, or, as the Indians pronounced it,

“NI-A-GA-RA, the Thunderer of Waters.”



... THE ...

Red Man's Fact.

THE MAIDEN'S SACRIFICE.

TRADITION tells us that the Indians living near the Falls used annually to offer as a sacrifice to the great spirit of Niagara, the fairest maiden of the tribe, sending her over the Falls in a white canoe, which was decked with fruits and flowers. The honor of being chosen as the heroine of this human sacrifice was eagerly coveted by the Indian maidens.

On one occasion the daughter of the chief was selected. Her father betrayed no feeling, but as the white canoe, guided by his daughter's hand, reached the Rapids he leaped into a canoe and followed her, nearly overtaking her, and meeting his death a few moments afterwards.

