

The Newettee Indians about Millbank Sound, in British Columbia, believe in a Great Spirit who is good, and made us and the world ; and the Bella Bellas thought they could make a steamship, when they first saw one, with the help of the Great Spirit.\*

Missionaries among the Dakotas or Sioux have been unable to satisfy themselves that those Indians had any idea of the Great Spirit before the coming of the whites, but that He was a dream of the poets and sentimentalists ; yet, besides their numerous gods, the great object of their veneration was their Takoo Wakan, the Great Mysterious, which comprehended all mystery, secret power, and divinity, who dwells everywhere, rather a pantheistic God, yet so much of a being that the Indian exclaims in prayer, " Mystery, Father have mercy on me."†

Dr. W. Mathews agrees with them, and yet says one designated as the Old Man Immortal has no vague existence in their minds, for he made all things and instructed their forefathers in their ceremonies.‡

From this I understand that these Indians did not believe in the Great Spirit of the Indians as described by some writers, and yet that *they had a conception of a Supreme Being greater than all their other gods.*

Among the Omahas, the Wakonda is believed to be the greatest and best of beings, who has various attributes of the Supreme Being, and punishes men for their evil deeds.§

Captain Carver relates an interesting incident of the worship of the Great Spirit at the Falls of St. Anthony, by a young Winnebago Chief.||

The Algonquins, both of Canada and the United States, give him the name of the Great Hare, Michabou ; the Agreskouï of the Hurons, and the Agreskouse of the Iroquois, is the Sovereign Being of these tribes, and the New England tribes conceived of one Almighty Being who dwells in the south-west regions, who was superior to all other divinities.¶

McCoy speaks of the same ideas among the Indians of Indiana and the Indian Territory, especially the Pottawottamies ;\*\* Bradford certifies to them among the Eskimo, Osages, Arikarees, Pawnees, Indians of Virginia, Algonquins, and

\* Dunn, *On Oregon Territory*, pp. 173, 184.

† *Gospel Among the Dakotas*, chap. v.

‡ *Hidatsa Indians*, p. 47.

§ *Long's Expedition*, 1819-20, vol. i. p. 267.

|| *Century of Dishonour*, pp. 239, 240.

¶ *Hayward's Book of All Religions*, pp. 210-212.

\*\* *History of Indian Missions*, p. 457.