

dirt that was next to the fire. When the arrow entered it a spring of water came forth, and the boy drank. From it sprang all the rivers of the world.

But there was no rain and no snow. The animals held a council, and considered how to procure them. They resolved to go to the end of the world, to make a hole through the sky, and to climb up through it. They did so. When they reached the end of the world all the animals tried to tear the sky, but they were unable to do so. All had tried except two ermines. One of them jumped up, struck the sky, and tore it. The other ran through the hole, and then all the animals helped to enlarge it. They climbed up through it, but when all had passed the hole closed again. They were on a large, beautiful prairie, and walked on. After they had gone some time, they saw a lodge in the far distance. They reached it and entered. There were many bags in the house. One contained the rain, another one the snow, a third one the fog, and still others the gales and the four winds. The men sat down and debated what to do. Only a woman was in the house. Her name was Xa txaná (goose woman). They said to her: "It is dry and hot on earth. We have nothing to eat, and nothing to drink. Give us what we need, for you are keeping it in your house." The goose woman replied: "All that you need is in these bags: rain and snow, the winds, the gale, and the fog. If you tear them, it will be winter. The North wind will blow. It will be cold, and the ground will be covered with snow. Then the snow will melt, the West wind will blow, and trees and shrubs will bloom and bear fruit. Then another season of snows and cold will follow."

Now the people tore the bags, and it happened as the woman had predicted. Clouds began to gather, and snow was falling. At the same time the level ground changed its form, and mountains arose.

Then the animals went back. Again the ermine tore the sky, and all went down. Then the animals ran into the woods and separated from man.

See Petitot, "*Traditions indiennes du Canada Nord-Ouest*," p. 375. A legend of the Chippewayan, who tell of the heat, rain, gales, and cold being kept in bags in the sky.

4 THE THUNDERBIRD.

Once upon a time a dog barked while it was thundering. This frightened the thunderbird so badly that it fell down dead near a village. The people went to see it, and observed that its skin was similar in appearance to that of a frog. It carried three large bags, one between its legs and one in each armpit. They were full of water. Its view made the people sick. When the thunderbird