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## A MOHAWK LEGEND OF ADAM AND EVE.

An interesting study might be made of the influence which the teachings of the missionaries of the Christian church have exerted in modifying primitive Indian myths ; interesting also is the effect produced upon the stories of the Bible by the Indian imagination. As a contribution to this study, the following, obtained in November, 1888, from an intelligent Mohawk from the Reservation at Brantford, Ont., may be of some value. The narrator stated that it was current at Caughnawaga.

At first the bodies of Adam and Eve were all smooth and shining, as men's finger-nails are now. But one day Adam was walking about in the garden near the tree on which the fruit was, when he heard something say to him : "Take ! take !" and something, again, saying : "Don't take ! Don't take !" After a while, however, Adam became bold enough and took a fruit and began to eat it. The first bite he took stuck in his throat, and is there to this day. He then gave Eve a piece which she ate. Then they both began to suffer change, and all the smoothness and shininess of their bodies began to disappear, and all that was left of it is seen now in our finger-nails and toe-nails. It was the Devil, who had become a snake and climbed up the tree, that tempted Adam. After doing this the Devil returned to the centre of the earth. Even at this day a common form of assertion among the Mohawks is, "As sure as the Devil returned to earth again !" The Indians believed that *Owistos* (? Christ) would kill the Devil-snake by driving a sword through the centre of his head, and pinning him to the earth with his wings outspread. The Indians all hate snakes, and every one (even the women) will kill a snake when he sees it ; when so doing they call out, "*Owistos ! ooayerle ! Owistos ! ooayerle !*" (*Owistos ! I kill ! Owistos ! I kill !*)

The variations from the Biblical narrative are too obvious to need comment.

A. F. Chamberlain.