

## PREFACE.

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THE following MICMAC LEGENDS were collected by the Rev. SILAS T. RAND, who was for forty years a missionary among the Micmac Indians of Nova Scotia. The stories were related to him in Micmac, by the native Indians, and then translated and written down by him in English; the translations only have been preserved, in no case the narration in the original language. Of his mode of procedure in taking down these legends, Dr. Rand says: "The greater portion of these legendary remains were written out at first, not in Indian, but in English. I never found an Indian, either man or woman, who would undertake to tell one of these stories in English. I heard them related, in all cases, in Micmac. I usually had pen, ink, and paper at hand; if I came to a word I did not understand, I would stop the speaker, jot down the word with its meaning, make a few other brief notes, and then write out the story in English from memory, aided by the brief notes I had made. But this was not all; I always read over the story in English to the one who related it, and made all necessary corrections."

Concerning the origin of these Indian stories, and their relationship to European tales and myths, Dr. Rand says: "I have never found more than five or six Indians who could relate these queer stories; and most, if not all, of these are now gone. Who their original author was, or how old they are, we have no means of knowing. Some of them are evidently of modern date, because they refer to events that have taken place since the advent of the whites. Some of them are so similar to some of our old European 'fairy-tales' and 'wizard stories,' as told in our English story-books, as to lead to the impression that they are really one and the same." Mr. Charles G. Leland, in his "Algonquin Legends of New England,"<sup>1</sup> calls attention to some curious coincidences between the Norse myths and those of the Wabanaki or Northeastern Algonquins, to which branch the Micmacs belong; he inclines to the opinion that these resemblances are to be explained by the theory of direct transmission.

Soon after the death of Dr. Rand, in 1889, the Legends, together with other valuable Micmac and Maliseet manuscripts, were purchased by Professor E. N. Horsford for the library of American Linguistics, Wellesley College, and placed in charge of the Department of Comparative Philology for publication.

The value of this material, collected by the untiring industry of the Rev. Dr. Rand, was readily recognized by Professor Horsford; he did not fail to see in it a contribution of rare worth, alike to the philologist, the anthropologist, and the ethnologist; he believed that traces of the Northmen might be found in these

<sup>1</sup> Preface, p. 3.

Indian tales, and that the language of the Micmacs might, upon closer study, reveal the impress of the early Norse invaders. He therefore desired that these works should be published, and thus placed within the reach of investigators.

The ability and zeal of Dr. Rand have saved from oblivion the rich material of a whole language and literature; the generosity and scholarly enthusiasm of Professor Horsford have furnished the means whereby the publication of this material is made possible; the service which these two scholars have rendered to a trio of sister sciences will prove more and more a stimulus to research, the more the attention of scholars turns to the study of the aboriginal inhabitants of our country.

The original manuscript of *Legends* in Dr. Rand's collection is a volume of nine hundred quarto pages. A few of these legends have already been published.

Mr. Charles G. Leland, while preparing his volume entitled "The Algonquin Legends of New England," made use of the manuscript of Dr. Rand for some of his stories of Glooscap, of the adventures of Master Rabbit, and of the Partridge; also for the Chenoo legends, and some tales of magic.

The "Dominion Monthly" for 1871 contains nine legends by the Rev. Silas T. Rand.

The "North American Review" for 1871, in an article by William Elder, entitled "The Aborigines of Nova Scotia," contains several stories about the Kwedech Wars, Glooscap, Kâktoowâsees (Little Thunder), and Keekwâjoo (the Badger).

The "American Antiquarian," edited by Stephen D. Peet, Chicago, Illinois, contains the following legends :

Vol. XII. pp. 156-159, May, 1890. The Beautiful Bride.

Vol. XII. pp. 283-286, Sept. 1890. Glooscap, Chukw, Coolpujot.

Vol. XIII. pp. 41-42, Jan. 1891. A Giant Story.

Vol. XIII. pp. 163-170, March, 1891. The Story of the Moosewood Man.

While some portions of the Legends have thus already in substance been presented to the public, yet the entire collection, in the form in which Dr. Rand wrote it, now for the first time appears in print.

In preparing this work for publication, I have endeavored to preserve, as nearly as possible, the wording of the original; some changes have, however, been deemed necessary for the sake of greater clearness, or to remove such slight grammatical inaccuracies as have, evidently through inadvertence, slipped into the text. In the spelling of some of the Indian proper names there is considerable variation in the manuscript, due perhaps partly to oversight, partly to the fact that Dr. Rand, in spelling these words phonetically, availed himself of an admissible variation of characters to represent the same sound, and partly to a real difference in the sound of the words as spoken by different narrators. The English-Micmac Dictionary of Dr. Rand,<sup>1</sup> which I have followed in some cases where the manuscript showed various spellings, has been of great service to me.

Since the death of Professor Horsford on New Year's day of the present year I have felt deeply the loss of his friendly counsel and genial interest in the editing of this work; yet this loss has been lessened,

<sup>1</sup> Halifax, N. S., 1888.

in so far as might be, by the cordiality with which his family, especially Misses Lilian and Cornelia Horsford, have coöperated with me in the execution of his plans. My thanks are due to Mr. W. F. Ganong, of Harvard University, for valuable suggestions; and especially to Mrs. A. F. Harris, of Chauncy Hall School, Boston, for reading with me the proof-sheets.

A deep interest in the work, as a tribute of respect to his venerated and distinguished kinsman, has been shown throughout by Dr. Benjamin Rand, of Harvard University.

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