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TWICE-TOLD INDIAN LEGENDS

The following interesting Indian legends are from the pen of Cella K. Husik:

THE MYTH OF THE SMOKING PINE

When the chief, Asonimo, who presided over the tribe of Indians that dwelt on the banks of the Bombahook, was struck dead by a thunderbolt the people of his tribe buried him near the bank of that stream. And there, today, near Hallowol, Maine, over the spot of his grave stands the smoking pine. This is the story the Indians tell of the origin of this tree:

When the first white men came to inhabit this land they found the Indians, a strong and sturdy race, inhabiting this new country. To them the white man brought vice and disease, and soon the Indians' native strength and vitality began to ebb. They grew feeble, lost their former hardihood and vigor, and were soon unable to cope with the more powerful stranger in the land.

Chief Asonimo saw this and warned his people that the Great Spirit had spoken their fate, which was to be that of destruction. He counseled them not to join in strife with the white man, but to call him into council and to smoke with him the pipe of peace.

"I am soon to die," added the old chief, "and where my body lies there shall rise a great pine which shall forever smoke as a token of eternal peace between the red and white people."

The prophecy of the old chieftain was fulfilled. The compact of peace between the Indians and the English was made and soon thereafter Chief Asonimo died, struck by a thunderbolt. Then it was that his tribesmen decided to leave the land and move on westward. On visiting their beloved Chief Asonimo's grave to bid him a last farewell, they beheld, with awe and wonder, the complete fulfillment of his prophecy. There stood a beautiful pine tree from whose leaves and branches a haze of smoky mist was constantly rising. Hence it is that from that day on this tree has been called the Smoking Pine.

A LEGEND OF NIAGARA

Once upon a time a young Indian maiden was about to be given in marriage to an Indian chief. The girl detested the man, and, rather than marry him, she preferred death. On the very day of the wedding, she seized an opportunity, entered a canoe,

and, quietly and unobserved, drifted down the Niagara toward the falls. Another moment and she would be dashed to pieces below. Bidding farewell to the world, and with a prayer on her lips to the all-powerful spirit, she awaited her awful doom as the little canoe plunged over the edge of the thundering Niagara.

As she was about to be swallowed by the waters the thunder god, Heno, saw her and caught her in his arms. Then he brought her safely into a cave behind the falls, where he guarded her and cared for her until she married one of his own sons.

From that time on, with the help of Heno, she became the protectress and guardian over her people, warning them of approaching dangers, and giving them council and advice. Once, when pestilence and famine threatened her people, she bade them leave their homes and depart to other lands. As soon as they were gone a great serpent appeared, which had come to poison the waters and to devour the people. The god, Heno, saw the monster and slew him with a thunderbolt. As the huge serpent floated down the stream its body folded, and this told of its body caused the waters to be deflected into the Horseshoe falls to be seen to this day on the Niagara.

The god, Heno, now took all of his children up to heaven, and whenever he thunders in the clouds above the echo is heard in the waters of the Niagara Falls below.

THE FIRST FIRE

Following is a legend of Indians of the Klamath tribe:

Once upon a time, when the animals and birds were like human beings, they had to eat their food without it being cooked. One day a little robin caught something which she saw flying in the air and took it to her mother. It was a burnt leaf that came from a fire many miles away. Of course the old people knew that there must be fire some place, so they sent the humming-bird and dove to look for the fire. The dove came back first without finding the fire.

When the humming-bird came back she brought the news of what she had found out about the fire. The coyote was chosen to take some others with him and steal some fire. He got the black snake to sneak in and steal some while he was attracting the owner's at-

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