

people dancing in his honor. He was very sorry for having been the cause of their going to so much trouble, and he was afraid to go into the Assembly and waited until it was daylight, when he explained to his people the mistake they had made, but that now he was ready to die and be with his friend. When he had finished talking, he seated himself under a favorite tree and during the entire feast, no one heard him speak. When it was over, they went to him and found that he was dead.

He was placed in the grave with his friend and arrangements were made for his burial feast.



## The Merman's Prophecy.

EMMA M. NEWASHE, *Sac & Fox*



HE spring had not arrived in all its splendor, but its coming was clearly seen, for the buds on the trees were beginning to show that everything would be full of life.

One cool morning before sunrise, two devoted brothers decided to go hunting and at the same time keep fast.

They traveled for six days, and at the end of the sixth day, the younger became tired and hungry. That night they had their usual night's rest but ate nothing.

The seventh morning, while the brothers sat beside each other, the younger cast his wistful eyes up to a large tree. Just where three of the limbs branched from the trunk, he saw an unusual sight. A fish! Owing to his curiosity, he asked his brother to climb the tree and see if he could not get the fish. The elder was tired and so nearly exhausted from hunger and travel that he failed after five times to climb the tree. The younger was anxious to obtain the fish and resolved to climb. He was not long in accomplishing the feat. He threw the fish down to his brother who was very much frightened at discovering that it was really a fish. He knew at once that there was some mystery connected with it.

It happened that they were near a village. The younger brother suggested that they boil the fish; but the older was very much

opposed to the proposition on account of breaking fast, but because his brother insisted, he suggested that he might go and borrow a copper kettle to use in carrying water from a lake near-by. They agreed on this, and while the elder was gone, he cleaned the fish.

After they had their meal, the younger became very thirsty. He asked his brother to get some water for him and without delay the elder went to the lake. His brother drank and drank water and his brother kept on carrying water for him until he was overcome with fatigue. At last the elder said that he must go to the lake and drink as much water as he desired. This, he did, but he could not quench his thirst. His brother who did not accompany him became very uneasy about his stay. He went to the lake and here saw his brother lying with his head down to the water's edge.

When the younger saw his brother, he gave one leap into the lake. He tried to catch him but it was of no avail. He waited a few minutes and in the middle of the lake he saw his brother changed to a merman. His countenance was stronger and wiser.

Then, in a commanding yet merciful voice, the Merman asked his brother to call all his people to assemble around the lake. The next day all the Sacs gathered around him ready to hear what he had to say.

He began by saying that he had always been happy with them, but his saddest days concerning his people were rapidly approaching. He told them so long as they were north of where the white-barked (sycamore) trees grow, he could constantly watch over them. He told them so long as they stayed north of the Missouri River, they would continue to adopt the customs of their ancestors; but, as soon as the tribe crossed, they would no longer have his beneficent influence. Their worship, language and customs would change. The prophecy extends to where he said that the tribe would settle near a large body of water (supposed to be the Gulf of Mexico), and that this would be a final resting place of the Sacs.

So many parts of this prophecy have come true that it is considered very wonderful by the tribe.

