

THE TAHLEQUAH ARROW

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POCAHONTAS WAS A CREEK

At Least Charles Gibson Relates a Creek Legend to That Effect--Some Traditions Concerning Her Family.

Pocahontas has filled an important place in history. The culmination of her little romance with Captain John Smith gave to her a prestige possessed by no other maiden of her time. She found herself famous, but not stuck up. Historians of the different tribes have attempted to identify her with the Cherokees, the Choctaws and the Creeks. No sooner has one historian succeeded in proving her blood relationship to some particular tribe than the hammer of the iconoclast knocks his research into the hence. Charles Gibson, the Creek writer, tells a story in the Muskogee Phoenix which gives an entirely new version of the historical romance of Mr. John Smith and Miss Pocahontas. Gibson's version is as follows:

"The Creeks have a tradition like this: Several hundred years ago there lived a man and his wife, with a large family of children. The old man's name

was Po-hat-tee, his wife's name was Po-ki-tee; the interpretation of the man's name is, 'to ask, or to invite'; It was, and is yet, a very uncommon thing to find a fullblood man and wife with a large family of children, therefore in those days there were lots of jokes on Po-hat-tee and his wife after they became old. They were at a Pus-ka-ta, or busk, with all their children, some eight or ten, which always caused a great deal of comment about the family. While thus talking the father told the people in his own language that the children they saw were the remains of a once large family; that the most of his children were dead. This caused a big laugh of the crowd. The word he used on this occasion was Po-ka-ha-nas.

A couple of years after this the old man and his wife attended another annual busk with their large family, with an additional one, a girl. The company noticed the addition and asked if this was also a remnant of his children. He said yes, that it was his last child. This caused another laugh, and the crowd named this last child Po-ka-ha-nas, meaning that this children were about all gone.

About this period the man with the pale face made his appearance among the American Indians. One day a paleface came to the Tepee of Po-hat-tee. From

his appearance he showed that he belonged to the Grand Order of the G.O.A.'s. Po-hat-tee, like most of his people, treated this fellow very kindly, and the P.F. absorbed a great quantity of the old man's kindness, likewise deer meat and sofky. The P.F. saw that it was good to be with Po-hat-tee and family, as he made himself useful, as well as ornamental, by carrying water and wood to cook venison and sofky.

So the P.F. became a full-fledged prodigal son; he would not go back to his people until he proved to be a knight of the G.O.A. sure enough. Along about this time the child, Po-ka-ha-nas was a big, fat, grown girl. This man of the P.F. asked her to take him for the worst, as there was no other P.F. in camp any better. Old man Po got on to their racket and the first thing he got his hand on was an U-tus-sa. Old Po made a dive at the P.F. but aimed too high, though he nearly scalped him. Then it was a race for life with Po-ka-ha-nas, the paleface and old man Po. But the old man gave up the chase and the P.F. and Po-ka-ha-nas skipped the country and were never heard of after.

The Creeks know nothing of Captain Smith, but this might have given a foundation for the Captain Smith and Pocahontas story that has given so many their royal Indian blood.

(continued)

P. S. The Grand Order mentioned is Greasy  
Over Alls.