



with something he had discovered:

Most of the Indian tribes have some tradition of the Deluge, and the Esquimaux [called Inuit today] seem to have taken the whites, when they first saw them, for descendants of Cain. They had a tradition, that in the first family on earth the sons quarrelled, and one killed his brother, and had to leave his home, and they thought the white men might be the posterity of this wanderer returned once more.<sup>4</sup>

The Indians believed they had a duty to exterminate these descendants of “Cain”; that is why one of them tried to kill Bishop Bompas. But how did they come to know the story?

All round the world there are stories about the remote past which include a flood. In fact almost every culture in the world has some sort of flood legend often depicted as a judgement by an angry God. As people spread over the earth after events at the Tower of Babel they took with them a knowledge of past events. As time passed these (hi)stories developed and changed into legends but in different cultures different elements remain from the original facts.<sup>5</sup>

### A game to play

You can play the game of Chinese Whispers to help you understand how a story can change as it passes from one person to another.

How to play:

The players must form a line or circle. The first player thinks of a short message. He whispers it into the ear of the second player. The second player repeats the message to the third player, and so on. The last player announces the message they heard to all the players. The first person then tells the original message.

Did you manage to pass on the message correctly?

The classic story about a Chinese Whisper is an anecdote that dates from the First World War. The message “Send reinforcements. We are going to advance” when passed along the line became, “Send three and fourpence we are going to a dance.” I hope the story is apocryphal!

We can see, from this game and from the variety of flood legends round the world, why God in his wisdom gave us his word in written form. God has preserved his word for us in all ages. There has never been a time when it has been lost or corrupted.<sup>6</sup>

### Get outdoors in the snow – if there is some!



William Bompas travelled thousands of miles in the Canadian Arctic. He used a sledge pulled by dogs in winter as this was the best way of getting about in the tough conditions.

Did you read about the snow that Gilbert White recorded in 1776 in the lesson for 16<sup>th</sup> January? He reported that the sun came out on the 20<sup>th</sup> for the first time since the frost began on the 7<sup>th</sup> and the thermometer stood at between 25° and 29° F. For

what happened next see tomorrow's lesson.

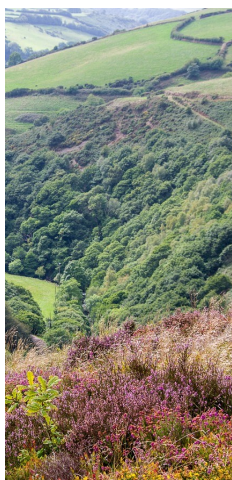
4 William Bompas, *Northern Lights on the Bible Drawn from a Bishop's Experience during twenty-five Years in the Great North-West*. (London, 1893).

5 For more examples see <https://creation.com/many-flood-legends#aside1>

6 Older children may benefit from these talks <https://www.metropolitantabernacle.org/School-of-Theology/2021-The-War-Against-the-Authentic-Biblical-Text>. Designed for theology students but older home eds. will be able to follow.

If you have some snow this winter don't forget to go out sledging. If you don't have a sledge a good sized tea tray will do. Find a good slope in a park or field. You will have fun whooshing down and get warm climbing up again!

### A story to read



Do you know anyone called Lorna? Lorna is not, as you might think an old Scottish name but was made up by R. D. Blackmore (1825-1900) for the heroine of his book *Lorna Doone*. 20<sup>th</sup> January is the anniversary of his death, by which time *Lorna Doone* was a hugely popular book. Enabled by a inheritance to buy some land and grow fruit and vegetables, Blackmore was a knowledgeable horticulturalist. Despite the immense popularity of the book Blackmore is said to have said he would rather be remembered as the winner of first prize for swedes than as the author of *Lorna Doone*! It had been a failure at first and the initial three volume edition did not sell. When a single volume popular edition appeared Blackmore claimed that its immense popularity was caused by a mistake. There had recently been a royal wedding; Princess Louise had married the Marquess of Lorne. A reviewer of Blackmore's book claimed it was about the Marquess's ancestors and everyone rushed out to buy it!

The book is an exciting one set in the seventeenth century in the remote area of Exmoor in Devon. Blackmore writes very atmospherically and took pains to capture the local style of speech for his characters. Copies are available for under £4 new so if you had a book token for Christmas and have not spent it yet, here is a good suggestion.<sup>7</sup>

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7 Or you can find it free on line here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/17460>