# AN AMERICAN

From early June until late in the fall the Mecca of the tourist, the scholar, and the lover of nature in general is the land of the Ojibway Their principal settlement is near the little town of Desbarats, Ontario. Here it is that every summer, the Indians present play of "Hiawatha" to the thousands that gather here from all parts of America to witness the unique but interesting spectacle.

To the Indians, the play is of deep significance; it is the instrument by the characters. Their pathetic yearnwhich their legends, traditions and customs are preserved and handed to posterity. Like the peasants of Oberammergau, they are prompted to a certain degree by a their centuries of oppression. religious motive. To them, Hiawa- course, the acting at times is sometha is no mere chief. Next to the what crude, but to me, instead of all powerful Gitchi Manitou, he is

accessible means reaching the Indian village is to take one of the little steamers Sault Ste. Marie; or, if you are of a up the river in his birch-bark canoe compare. As the boat glides along, we see on either side high cliffs of into many, fantastic shapes: while far off in the distance huge fir and pine tower sentinel-like. As the journey progresses, we find ourselves in a veritable archipelago, covered with a dense growth of native trees. Beautiful emeralds-they seem-set in the glistening waters of the river. At length the Indian village "bursts" upon us in all its indescribable beauty. We see the white tepees that dot the little eminence, overlooking the bay, and nearer the shore, the rude Inn built of rough pine logs. Here we are to dine, and wait until time for the play to begin.

Early in the afternoon we enter ourselves upon the rude logs along the water's edge-these are the re served seats. We can easily spend the time before the first war-whoop

But a word about the stage ! No gaudily painted scenery; no glare of lights; no sound of orchestral music -all these usual accessories of the us is a large platform, about three feet high, built on piles in the little about forty feet from the this is the stage. It is here, and in the water surrounding it, that the quaint drama takes place. No modern dramatist, with his expenditure of thousands of dollars, has been able to produce a stage setting that can compare with this natural scenery. In the foreground are the mirror-like waters of the inlet, or bay, with the sun shining on them, and transforming them into a mosai of glistening crystals; while in the background, the varied green of the natural forest, and somewhat moved, two little isles, where appear the tepees of some of the tribe; and over all the clear, blue sky of the north country. Not even the ancient Greeks could conceive of a theatre like this. Miss Alice Longfellow, a daughter of the poet, on her visit to the play last summer, said: "The play is worth a journey

across the continent to see. most scenery is sublime, and the charming that drama ever had."

most of us, were it not for the interpreter, who explains the meaning as the play progresses.

After we have witnessed the play, with its supernatural situations, we are curious to learn how the task of transforming these uncouth "redskins" into graceful Thespians was ever accomplished. The popular conception of the Indian is an indolen and worthless creature of immobile But this is a wrong notion. The Indian is a very appupil, and most of the actors are of a literate class. Men, squaws and children are all eager to take part in the play, and there is keen rivalry for the various roles. The manager is very exacting, and his task making a selection is a most arduous one. The actor, in order to carry out the ideal conception of must combine a massive stature with strong voice, and grace of action. Those who pass through the ordeal, and are selected to assume the characters; are held in great esteem by the less fortunate embers of the tribe. Especially is this true of Hiawatha

play showed me the keen interest manifested in the play. Minnehaha, with childlike pride, informed that she had spent an entire year in designing the gorgeous costume of workmanship, of buck-skin, heavisign, and fringed with hundreds of tails of priceless otter. Last sumin the fall the Hiawatha of the plalaid siege to the heart of Minnehaha

and led her away as his bride. Above all, the great charm of the play is its simplicity. He who goes there with the expectation of seeing the dramatic art of an Irving, or a Mansfield, will come away disappointed. The Indians display a surprising ability in the delineation of ings seem to come straight from the heart; and when their passions are aroused their vengeance bursts forth with all the pent-up anguish of

weakening the effect, these slight their greatest prophet and protector. flaws seem to add a certain charm. The fact must never be lost sight of that this is an Indian play and that at the actors are real Indians.

The play-with slight variations more venturous nature, engage one is the American epic of "Hiawatha," of the Indian guides to paddle you by Henry Longfellow, put into dramatic form. Longfellow visited this -a distance of sixty miles. The very region, many years ago, and from the old chief he learned their legends, customs and songs, wrought them into the beautiful epic sandstone, wrought by the elements familiar to every student of American literature.

The play is a continuous perform ance, lasting between five and six hours, with no intermissions tween the different scenes. Almost all the different characters of the poem are represented, but the leading roles are those of Hiawatha Minnehaha, Pan-Puk-Keewis, Chibiaboa, Iago, the ancient Arrow-Maker and old Nokomis.

Pan-Puk-Keewis is the villain of the play. Many have styled him the "Indian Otis Skinner," so much does he remind them of the character of "Lazarre." Truly, he is an almost ideal type of the Indian. the enclosure, or stockade, and seat Mark well his massive stature, his perfect profile and regal bearing. Old Nokomis might well be called the "Mrs. Gilbert" of the drama, for this old squaw that rocks the cradle is heard, in admiring the landscape of Hiawatha has seen the snow of eighty winters. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the charming Minnehaha; she is the darling of

The play opens with the assembling modern stage are wanting. Before of all the hostile tribes, and their admonition by the Gitchi Manitou to smoke the pipe of Peace. In next scene, we see the baby Hiawatha lulled to sleep by old Nokomis. He is the true hero of the drama, and it is around him that the action centres. In the following scene, Hiawatha has developed into a lad of six, and with amusement we watch his instruction in the art of pad-Ming, fishing and shooting. Thus, we follow his growth into manhood, his journey to the land of the Dacotahs -his wooing of Minnehaha and turn to his tribe-and the advent of the first white man, Pere Marquette.

At frequent intervals throughout the play occur the varied dances of the Indians, the canoe races, their songs of triumph, and of vengeance. Chibiabos-called by Longfellow "the Sweet Singer," possesses a voice of wonderful strength and sweetness. It is hard to persuade the tourist that he is one of the tribe, and not some virtuoso from a grand opera company "faked" into

harming that drama ever had."

The play, being given in the Ojibwhole, the crowning feature is the whole, would be "Greek" to "finis," which—according to the rules here!" I had found that this Irish depopulated. of the drama-is neither catastrophe nor denouement.

Hiawatha learns that his mission on earth is now to cease. He must travel far to the westward, to the land of the Gitchi Manitou.

"On the shore stood Hiawatha, Turned and waved his hand at part ing:

On the clear and luminous water Launched his birch canoe for sailing Whispered to it 'Westward, West

And with speed it darted forward, And they said, 'Farewell forever!' Said, 'Farewell, O Hiawatha!'"

The sun has sunk almost beyond the distant hills. Amid the treaties and wailings of his tribe Hiawatha leaps into his canoe, and a few strekes of the paddle sends it down stream. We almost conceive of him as some god as he stand there motionless, in the middle the cance, his paddle uplifted before him, as the craft drifts straight along as though propelled by some supernatural force

We hold our breath in awe as

er. At last he has disappeared from view. He has reached the land of the Gitchi Manitou, and the play is IN "DARKEST" IRELAND.

he floats, while the breeze wafts back

his farewell-now fainter, and faint

(Continued from Page 1.)

those uncomfortable vehicles in which you sit sidewise-I continued the may be called literally a one-sided view of the country. We came at last to the old village of Westport, and here for the first time I met with tourists. On the outskirts of village / I came to a cabin a little better and larger than those out in the country, and this cabin. I was told, was a hotel. A woman stood in the doorway. Beside her was group of children, bare of foot as I dismounted from that car and sat down at a little table that stood just outside the door. husband soon came along and I entered into conversation with him 'Yonder," he said, pointing to the range of mountains in the background, "for three miles is owned by the Plunketts. Sir Horace Plunkett conducts an agricultural department in Dublin, and writes books about Ireland; but he has as many tenants and makes them pay rent as well as the 'king's rates,' along with the rest of the land In 1851 the Plunketts lords. bought all this land for tuppence ha'penny (five cents) an acre. Today the land makes millionaires

the Plunketts. And what isn't own ed by the Plunketts is owned by life insurance company in London, which also bought land hereabouts years ago for a few pennies the acre. And the wors( landlord we have is that insurance company which never gives mercy to the poor tenants when the rent is in arrears."

I went to the heart of Westport. to the hotel, finding there a swarm of tourists. "What a fine country,!" exclaimed a school teacher from Wayne, Ind. "Why do they say Ireland is so poor? We have just seen the loveliest people, all living in the sweetest, cleanest vineclad cottages." I tried to explain to the lady tourist from Indiana that she had only seen that part of Ireland reached by the railroads, and attempted convey to her some idea of the conditions away from the path of steam power. But she only exclaimed, "incredible !"

I ended my journey of investigation at the seaport town of Galway. There I abandoned the lopsided car and took the railway back to Dublin. As I neared Galway my car overtook a number of women, young and old, all wearing red skirts, near ly all in rags, and every one carry ing a huge basket of produce to be ward under the weight of the bas kets, which were tied to their shoulders with ropes. All through the poorer districts, that is, when near towns, I had seen this signt.

was constantly assured by those who knew, the chastity of the Irishwomen is proverbial, even a landlord going so far as to say that the women of Ireland are "the most virtuous of any race on earth."

young woman has nothing to live on but her character. Take that from her and there is murther."

salutation at once denoted that I was an experienced traveller in tha country, and the invariable reply "God save ye." In this last cabin one of the women said: "I haven't aten a bit this blessed day Another of the women said: "Troth, I've suffered a long time from poverty and sickness, glory be to God !" I mention these emarks of the poor women to illus trate the meekness and resignation with which these people bear their misfortunes and affliction.

In Galway itself I did not have to seek long to find emigrants-men omen and children-bound for the United States. They were taking a small ship from Galway to Queens own, where they would embark on the big ship that would carry them to the "land of promise." "It's the only way out of all our trouble, said a farmer who was taking his whole family to America. "Some of the men folks go out first, and send back the money for one child For we're all destroyed out o' this curves.

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land, and it's either the workhouse or America." Such are the conditions in "darkest Ireland" to-day. I have given here only the testimony of my own eyes and ears. These are the facts. Explanations I leave to those who write learned essays on "Ireland of the Future," but who will not take the physical trouble to go see the Irish people of now. Not in the seclusion of a comfortable daughter, said: "In this country, a study, but in the very huts of the poor Irish in Ireland itself, is where one can find out why there are more Irish in America to-day than in all At the last poor cabin I came to Erin's isle itself, and why, at the depopulated

### SEEING NOISE.

Sound can be photographed by taking advantage of the motion produced in a tuning fork. Sound travels in waves, each corresponding with an oscillation in the fork, which remains in a state of continuous vibration while the note is sounded.

To photograph these sound waves a small mirror is attached to the end of one of the prongs. Un this a powerful beam of light is projected by a lens, so as to strike it at ngle of forty-five degrees. The light is again reflected from its surface, but in a new direction, and a slight alteration in the position the mirror makes a large one in the reflected beam.

To take the photograph the light is turned upon the mirror in a darkened room, and the tuning fork is set in vibration, while a sensitive plate is rapidly passed in the path of the reflected pencil of light. development the plate shows sound come over, then another, and finally waves recorded as a wavy line, and each note has its characteristic THE BIG STORE WILL GLOSE AT 5.32 P.M. UNTIL FURTHER HOTICE.

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"There isn't anything like the in-emperance in Ireland nowadays that Vincent Kennedy, member of parlia ment from County Cavan, to ington Post reporter at the New Willard. "The typical Irish gentleman, as depicted in the fiction of Lever and Lover, who did noth-

and drink whisky, no longer can be THE TYPICAL 'IRISH GENTLE- ing but ride to hounds, fight d ound. Indeed, his habits were ways considerably exaggerated the romantic creations of these au-To-day in Ireland the ca of temperance is making substanti pledge by the hundreds. I am plenty of men who move in the sai circles with myself who never tou



Seventieth Birthda Father of the of Common

Ottawa, Feb. 1.-Visi on one of the desks in th of the Government side a small vase holding hamrock, That desk was Hon. gan's, and this was th

nniversary of his birth sprig of shamrock was 'father of the House' t bering friend. Before th sumed its session after for dinner the members room 26 and presented gan with a beautiful cab yerware. The presents was made by Sir V rier, was also witnessed ! of Ottawa's well known friends of Mr. Costigan. frid, in making the p said he had known Mr. C some thirty years, had both as an opponent and He had always known his as a fair opponent and a He hoped Mr. Costigan many years longer to enj teem of his many friends. Replying, Mr. Costigan he appreciated the gift v and while he did not und he would say he enjoyed a warm shake of the han end equally as much. public career, Mr. Costige had supported both politi One time he was the supp admirer of Sir John A. but now he was an equ supporter and admirer of Laurier. His change of p due entirely to conviction ly on principle. He said that he had very few if a and was proud of his me

The members then returne Commons to resume their As each general election by one the old parliaments from the scene until at la can be counted on the fing hand. Hon. John Costiga a unique experience. For years he has continuously ed the one constituency, th toria, N.S. During that t never suffered defeat; never bye-election or a protest. more he is an Irishman re what is generally regard French constituency.

After again extending his

the gift, Sir Wilfrid Lau

for three cheers for Mr.

which were very heartily

lowed by the singing
Jolly Good Fellow."

was then given three rous

### A LESSON BY CONT

To the very last day of in Washington the late Sens was known in the capital teous, patient and conside tleman, says the Washingto His gentle breeding was a all who came in contact v less than the necessary tim uiring a habit of kindly a One afternoon in his last sent his card to a bureau ch was noted for self-importan The messen ducted Senator Hoar into the umptuously appointed room thief sat at his desk facing but he neither raised his he the Senator entered, nor re his "Good morning!" The Senator halted half-w

the door to the desk, and pression of surprise came He waited patiently our minutes, but the bureau king no notice of him, s busily away at some papers. the Senator passed around t osite side of the big squ at which the chief was writing ed up a chair, sat down, dre ock of writing paper and gan to write. Then the bureau chief lo with an expression of well-si