

written with a view principally to the full and faithful illustration of Indian customs and character. It is for this reason that particular pains have been taken to bring forward the American natives in the greatest variety of positions, ordinary as well as extraordinary—in peace and war—in victory and in defeat—in their contests and conferences with each other, and with foreigners—in the worst display of their worst qualities, and in every nobler exhibition of civilization, virtue or genius which has proved them naturally capable of far more than they have ever attained or accomplished. A diversity will be observed also in the dates and sites of the narratives, intended in some degree to remind the reader, that however the artificial institutions of the numerous tribes may differ—and there is and has been a singular uniformity even in these—as to all the principles of their social and evil habits, their genius and their general character, which are most worthy of notice, they are mainly the same people now which they were centuries ago, and the same from the sources of the Penobscot to the mouth of the Bravo. It would have been easy to go into earlier times than those of King Philip ; but the narratives of the later periods are generally the most clear and complete. As to place, three or four of the tales belong to the History of the Southern States ; the longest narrative in the volume to that of the middle ; and the residue are located in every direction from the banks of the Connecticut to those of the Kenhawa and the remotest lakes of the north. The Tales are submitted to the public, on the whole, with a sanguine hope that such as may chance to meet with them and read them will be benefited as well as entertained.