

## THE CANADIAN INDIAN

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" Before the White man came,  
The Red man rode the plain,  
Untitled lord of Nature's great domain."

**T**HE Canadian Indian forms one of the many human groups that claim and are receiving the help and attention of the Church.

Because they are the genuinely "original Canadians," they merit the fullest sympathy of the "pale faces" who have supplanted them, and made them wards of the nation, but even more so because they are children of the same divine Father, and heirs of the same glorified Son, who died for them as for all men.

**Early History**—The origin of the red man on the North American continent is lost in antiquity. Whatever the race he sprang from or the geographical location of his forbears, he alone occupied the North American Continent for centuries, none disturbing his sway or challenging his rulership until the first white men came with the Hudson Bay Company, nearly three hundred years ago.

Then came other pathfinders from France, with their governors and traders, as well as priests. And this, too, was a fateful day for the Indian. The old order began to change for this original occupant of the land, finally resulting in his restriction to Reserves and becoming the ward of the Government.