

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH BRANT, THAYENDANAGEA.

Ever since the advent of the European to American soil, nearly four centuries ago, the extermination of the Indian tribes and nations has been going on. With the exodus of Europeans to America came death to the hardy and numerous aboriginal tribes. In South America we cannot number the nations extirpated by the Spanish conqueror. History gives but a faint idea of the number of red men who, in North America, have passed away before the cruel hand of war. Diseases before unknown to the Indian have likewise carried off their thousands. The gain to the nations of the world in the steady march of civilization westward, has not been counterbalanced by a corresponding improvement in the condition of the American Indian. Disinherited of their lands, in the majority of cases by foul means, the Indians find themselves to-day stripped of all but a miserable fragment of their once glorious patrimony, and the inheritors of the many vices and diseases of their white exterminators.

We owe a long debt of gratitude to the poor Indian. It is high time for Christian philanthropists to think of their duty to the few remaining tribes of red men; and, while studying the forms which the human intellect has developed among them, interpose to raise and elevate them in the scale of civilization.

Many bright examples are on record proving that the Indian mind is capable of a high state of civilization. The subject of this paper, Captain Joseph Brant, known by the name of Thayendaneagea, pronounced Ti-yan-te-na-ga, is a wonderful instance of what Indian intellect can accomplish when sharpened and polished by intercourse with the better class of European society.

As our beautiful town of Brantford, or,

as it was formerly called, Brant's-ford, known as the spot where Brant first forded the Grand River, is named after this brave chieftain, his memory and history should be honored and cherished with gratitude by its inhabitants. Would it not do credit to the white population of the country to erect a monument to the memory of Thayendaneagea, that succeeding generations may see and know the hero after whom the fast rising town of Brantford and our beautiful county is named?

Joseph Brant, or more correctly Thayendaneagea, was born in 1742; he was the son of Tehowaghwaraghkin, (pronounce it if you can), a full-blooded Mohawk of the Wolf Tribe. His parents resided in the valley of the Mohawk, New York State, and were on an expedition to the Ohio River when Joseph was born. While Joseph was a mere lad his father died, after which event his mother returned with two children,—Molly and Joseph—to their old home, Canajoharie. Shortly after this the mother married a respectable Indian called Carrihoga, whose Christian name was Barnet, by corruption Brant. It is reported that the future brave war chief was first known by the appellation of "Brant's Joseph," and, in process of time, by inversion, "Joseph Brant." In the *London Magazine* for July, 1776, it is stated that he was the grandson of one of the five sachems who visited England in 1710, during the reign of Queen Anne. Chieftainship among the Six Nation Indians is not always hereditary; yet there is no doubt Joseph Brant was of noble blood.

When only thirteen he entered the war-path at the memorable battle of Lake George, under the command of General Hendrick. This gallant officer was slain in this engagement. This victory over the French laid the foundation of Sir W. John-