

It is not without interest to note in conclusion that the main body of the representatives of the nations of the ancient Iroquois League, sprung from the Huron-Iroquois stock of eastern Canada,—after sojourning for centuries beyond the St. Lawrence, until the traditions of their origin had faded out of memory, or given place to mythic legends of autochthonic origin,—has returned to Canadian soil. At Caughnawaga, St. Regis, Oka, and on the River St. Charles, in the province of Quebec; at Anderdon, the Bay of Quinté, and above all, on the Grand River, in Ontario; the Huron-Iroquois are now settled to the number of upwards of 8,000, without reckoning other tribes. If, indeed, the surviving representatives of the Aborigines in the old provinces of the Dominion are taken as a whole, they number upwards of 84,000, apart from the many thousands in Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories. But the nomad Indians of the Northwest must be classed wholly apart from the settlers on the Grand River reserves. The latter are a highly intelligent, civilized people, more and more adapting themselves to the habits of the stranger immigrants who have supplanted them; and are destined as certainly to merge into the predominant race, as the waters of their ancient lakes mingle and are lost in the Ocean. Yet the process is no longer one of extinction, but of absorption; and will assuredly leave enduring traces of the American autochthones, similar to those which still, in the Melanochroi of Europe, perpetuate some ethnical memorial of its allophylian races.