

The treatise, moreover, has been made to comprehend a topic, which might seem to violate somewhat its settled plan, yet for incorporating which little excuse is needed—an account of that illustrious sachem, and doughty warrior of the Confederacy Joseph Brant.

Another, and I trust, pardonable, departure is the collection of all the more important legal decisions which either affect Indian lands, or elucidate the rights and disabilities of Indians under the Statute. These have been dispersed, in suggestive places, throughout the book.

I have, generally, in fulfilling my task, not scrupled to borrow propositions, adduce theories from the works of authors of distinction—native as well as white—writers whose contributions have conduced greatly to our understanding of an ancient and interesting people.