

thanks of Parliament and honours from the Crown are to the British soldier of to-day. Like the Spaniard he was dark and sinister in his punishments and retaliations. Like nearly all savage races his warfare was one of sudden and secret surprise, ruthless and ready slaughter. Like the nations of the whites, his tribes also warred continually against each other.

Looking back now upon the vast panorama of forest and prairie, lake and river over which the Indian wandered upon foot or glided in his birch-bark canoe; bearing in mind the stern hardships of the winter season and the wild happy freedom of the summer time; remembering the absence of all high tradition, spiritual influence or intellectual knowledge; one cannot but be impressed by the character and conditions of the people who first faced the fire-sticks of Champlain, the more fatal fire-water of the French trader, and the fierce zeal of the Jesuit missionary. A native of the wilds, a product of primeval conditions, the Indian believed in the right and liberty to roam at will over his wide realm of wilderness and water. Just as nature had made him a noble animal, with instincts which at times raised him to a high level of character and achievement; so, also, it filled him at first with simple admiration of the stranger who came with such attractive gifts, such wonderful weapons and such curious customs. After some experience of the white man's initial follies of policy and action, the instincts of nature, however, changed his confidence into permanent distrust—and this in the case of the American savage meant a more or less sleepless hostility.

When the earlier discoverers and explorers found their way into the wilds of Canada they came into contact and then collision with various Indian tribes or nations. The great family of the Algonquins extended right up through the middle of the continent and constituted the central race of the French possessions—reaching also in scattered masses from the Atlantic to Lake Winnipeg and from the