

THE MICMAC MISSION.

ONE design of the following pamphlet is to give to Christian friends residing at a distance from Nova Scotia, a short account of the Lord's work among the Micmac Indians, and as it seems proper at the same time to present a brief historical sketch, we will commence with

THE PEOPLE.

The *Micmacs are a tribe of North-American Indians. They are a family of the Algonkins,—a name taken from one large tribe of the group, that has been applied to the Indians inhabiting a vast territory, extending, in its extreme points, from Cape Breton on the east, in longitude 67, to longitude 102, west, and from latitude 60 on the northern side to north latitude 35 on the southern side. At the present day the "Five Nations," whose dialects are essentially different from the Algonkins, have a territory within the limits of the latter, to which they migrated at the close of the American Revolution. Bordering upon the Algonkins on the north, and extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are the Esquimaux (*Escúmō*, "eaters of raw fish," from *Eskūmāgēt*, he eats raw fish), who are of an entirely distinct race. The dialects of the various Algonkin tribes are so different that they cannot understand each other; but a comparison of these dialects shows that they are all connected, and proves, beyond question, that they were formerly one people. Plenty of words, too, occur so like to those of the Indo-European tongues as to settle the question that "we are all brothers."

The Micmacs are at present scattered over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island. They have a tradition that their fathers came from the south-west. They say, too, that they expelled another tribe from the country. There seems a confirmation of this in the fact that it is impossible now to ascertain the signification of many of the Indian names of places as they are now pronounced. And sometimes where the sense is plain the name

This word is sometimes written as if it were a name and surname, *Mic Mac*. This is an error, a simple absurdity. It is one single word. Its meaning is not known.