

PORTRAITS OF THE ABORIGINES OF CANADA AND NOTES ON THE TRIBES

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The whole of the New World when first discovered by Europeans was occupied by the red race. They were called Indians by Columbus, who thought he had discovered India, and this name has clung to them. Ethnographers call them Americans, or the American race. One of the favorite theories of the day is that they originally came from Asia. Some of the leading ethnologists controvert this and point to Europe, basing their opinion upon geological facts. "At the close of the last glacial epoch, and for an indeterminate time previous, the comparatively shallow bed of the North Atlantic was above water; and this was about the time that we find men in the same stage of culture dwelling on both its shores," and it is placed beyond cavil, that the extreme antiquity of man in America reaches into a past for which we have no time measure.

As an instance of the mental powers of the Indian, "in ancient America there are examples of firm and stable states, extending their sway widely and directed by definite policy. The league of the Iroquois was a thoroughly statesmanlike creation, and the realm of Peru had a long and successful existence. That this mental quality is real is shewn by the recent history of some of the Spanish-American republics. Two of them, Guatemala and Mexico, count among their ablest Presidents, in the present generation, pure-blood American Indians."

Vide: *The American Race*, by Daniel G. Brinton, M.D.

In Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, there are five great linguistic stocks.

- 1 **ESKIMO**—The most northern inhabitants of the globe, occupying the Arctic coast, Greenland and part of Labrador, and extending to the Aleutian Isles and Asia.
- 2 **ALGONKIN**—This remarkable stock, so far extended and so closely linked with history, occupied the whole of the North