

that remote century when confederated Iroquois and Algonkins swept in triumphant fury through the wasted valley of the Ohio, and repeated there what Goth and Hun did for Europe, in Rome's decline and fall. The long-settled and semi-civilized Mound-Builders, or Alligéwi, as we are learning to call them, fled before the furious onset, leaving the great river-valley a desolate waste. The barrier of an old-settled and well-organized community, which, probably for centuries, had kept America's northern barbarians in check, was removed; and the fierce Huron-Iroquois stock ranged at will over the eastern regions of the continent, far southward of the North Carolina river-valleys, where the Nottoways and Tuscaroras found a new home. As to the Nottoways, they appear to have passed out of all remembrance as an Iroquois tribe; yet it is suggestive of a long-forgotten chapter of Indian history, that the name is still in use among the northern Algonkins as the designation of the whole Iroquois stock. The Nottawa-saga is, doubtless, a memorial of their presence on the Georgian Bay; and the Notaway (*Nédatance*) River which falls into Hudson Bay at James Bay, is so named in memory of Huron-Iroquois wanderers into that Algonkin region.

Some portion of the ancient Huron stock tarried on the banks of the St. Lawrence, in what is known to us now as the traditional cradle-land of those Canadian aborigines. Others found their way down the Hudson, or selected new homes for themselves on the rivers and lakes that lay to the west, till they reached the shores of Lake Erie; and all that is now the populous region of Western New York was in occupation of the Iroquois race. Fends broke out between them and the parent stock in the valley of the St. Lawrence. They meted out to them the same destruction as to strangers; and the survivors, abandoning their ancient home, fled westward in search of settlements beyond their reach. The Georgian Bay lay remote from the territory of the Iroquois, but the nations of the Wyandot stock spread beyond it, until the Niagara peninsula and the fertile regions between Lake Huron and Lake Erie were occupied by them, and the Niagara river alone kept apart what were now hostile tribes. But wherever we are able to apply the test of linguistic evidence their affinities are placed beyond dispute. On the other hand, the multiplication of dialects, and their development into separate languages, are no less apparent, and in many ways help to throw light on the history of the race.

The old Huron mother-tongue still partially preserves the labials which have disappeared from all the Iroquois languages. The Mohawk approaches nearest to this, and appears to be the main stem from whence the other languages of the Six Nations have branched off. But the diversities in speech of the various members of the confederacy leave no room to doubt the prolonged isolation of the several tribes, or "nations," before they were induced to recognize the claims of consanguinity, and to band together for their common interest. Some of the diversities of tongue, specially noteworthy, have already been pointed out, such as the *r* sound which predominates in the Mohawk, while the *l* takes its place in the Oneida. In the Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, they are no longer heard. The last of these reduces the primary forms to the narrowest range; but beyond, to the westward, the old Eries dwelt, speaking it may be presumed, a modified Seneca dialect, but of which unfortunately no record survives. As to the Tuscaroras and the Nottoways, if we knew nothing of their history, their languages would suffice to tell that they had been longest and most widely separated from the parent stock.