

INTRODUCTION.

ful, excursion, to descant upon the pressure that has been exerted over individual conduct, and the tone that has been imparted to individual character ; upon the bias given to energies, and the sphere ordained for effort, through the incidence of their indisputably cramping, as it is novel, political status.

It will devolve upon me, at the same time, to notice some of the Indian's peculiar institutions, and more striking tribal practices ; his enduring, most meritorious exploits in war ; his intellectual, physical, and moral make-up—together with certain features about his domestic life and surroundings that seem specially noteworthy and characteristic.

That I might become the more securely intrenched in positions taken upon open and contentious questions, I have not been without resort to dissertations, that deal with the Indian as some perpetuated Asian type. As subserving the same end, I have had access to, and been at some pains to examine, a number of records, that relate to the aborigines generally—communities which had been found, and are still known, in other parts of the continent, besides Canada.