Introduction.

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THE Indians are the Arabs of America, with all the picturesque poetry and romance of the desert runner; only we have no Bayard Taylor to make vocal that poetry; and I have often wondered why no one has embodied in art of some sort—picture or allegory—the legends of our North-West Crees, as Longfellow's "Hiawatha" eternally preserves the legend of the Ojibway, and the epic "Kalevala" the legend of the Finnish people. We must be quick about it and the work must be done now, or the race will have gone down that trail where all tracks point one way!

October 20th 1908