

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE INDIAN'S FUTURE AND THE WHITE MAN'S DUTY.

THE recital of missionary work among the Indians since Oliver Cromwell gave his subscription 'for the propagation of the gospel among the aboriginal races of America' forms one of the most interesting and romantic, and yet one of the most humiliating and unsatisfactory, chapters in the history of missions.

From the first century after the discovery of this continent, the aboriginal races of America, the Indians, have been to a more or less extent the object of missionary efforts. The Spaniards began their missionary work in Florida in 1566, in New Mexico in 1597, and in California in 1697. John Eliot's great work among the Indians of New England began in 1646. The Roman Catholic missions in Canada began about 1613, for although Paul La Jeune, the first Jesuit leader, did not reach