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THE DELAWARE INDIANS.

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At the time of their first discovery by the white people, the Delawares were living on the banks of the river Delaware, which divides Pennsylvania from New Jersey and New York. Their original name was Lenni Lenape, meaning "the original people." They were also called by the western tribes "Wapenachki," "the people of the rising sun." When the name "Delawares" was given to the tribe by the whites, they at first resented it; but being told that they, and also their chief river, were thus named after a great English warrior—Lord De la Warre—they were satisfied, and willingly adopted the name. Their lands, at that time stretched from the Hudson River to the Potamac. There is an ancient tradition among these people that they and the great nation of the Iroquois, came from the far west, crossed the Mississippi together, expelled the mound-builders east of it, and so won to themselves their ancient possessions. At that time, they say, there was a tribe called the Allegewi or Allegans, occupying the eastern portion of the Ohio valley. With the aid of the Iroquois, they succeeded in driving the Allegans out of the Ohio valley to the Southward. It has been suspected that these Allegans were the Cherokees, those people having a tradition among themselves that they once occupied the Ohio valley. When Hendrik Hudson anchored his ship, the *Half Moon*, off New York Island, in 1609, the Delawares stood in great numbers on the shore, to receive him, exclaiming in their innocence, "Behold the gods have come to visit us." More than a hundred years later, the traditions of this event were still current in the tribe. The Rev. Albert Anthony (a Delaware) speaking at a public meeting in 1884, said, "Our traditions affirm that at the period of the discovery of America our nation resided on the island of New York; we

called that island Man-a-ha-touh, a place to procure wood for our bows and arrows. At the lower end of the island was a grove of hickory trees, the wood of which our fathers used for their bows and war clubs. When we were driven back by the whites, we became divided into two bands, one was termed "*Minsi*" (Muncey), meaning "a great stone," the other was called *We-naw-mien*, "down the river." We called the Alleghany mountains *Allick-e-wa-ny*, meaning "he is leaving us, and may never return," the reference being to departing hunters and warriors.

The Delawares were a noble-spirited and powerful people, it is estimated that formerly they must have been about 15,000 in number; they belonged to the great Algonkin stock, and so were related to the Ojebways, Abenakis, Pottawatamies, Blackfeet, Crees, Micmacs, Cheyennes, and other branches of that very numerous family. No tribe has been more celebrated in song and story—it has been the stock subject of border romances. The very sound of their name used to carry terror wherever heard in the Indian wilderness. Little parties of eight or ten would visit some remote tribe, perhaps a thousand miles distant, bring away eight or ten scalps, and have their way home again through a hostile country.

But not withstanding their ancient grandeur, no tribe has perhaps suffered greater reverses than have the Delawares; they have been driven and jostled about from place to place; they have been devastated by wars, wasted away by removals, decimated by small-pox and whiskey, massacred in cold blood by heartless invaders. Their history, if fully written, would indeed be a sad one. A small remnant of the tribe only now remains, and, as though to hide the shame of their humiliation, their name has, in most instances, been changed. There are 780 of them now living in the Indian Territory, in the country of the Cherokees; these have been adopted into that nation, and bear their name. And in Canada there are "the Moravians of the Thames," 288 in number; these are Delawares; and the "Munsees of the Thames," numbering 131, who are of the same stock and speak the same language. The only Delaware Indians mentioned in Indian Department Reports under their own name are 79 in-