



A PAGAN WOMAN.

after bit, until now, in lieu of their erstwhile real estate, they have deposited with the Dominion government upwards of eight hundred thousand dollars, the interest on which they draw biennially individually, the amount varying in accordance with the expenditure they make on public works within their own reserve.

The history of the Iroquois is unquestionably the most interesting of the myriad native tribes in the Americas from the time of the formation of the great Iroquois Confederacy, more than four hundred years ago, down to the present day.

The Six Nations, as they are now generally called, have always been to a great extent an agricultural people, notwithstanding the terrible battles and depredations they found time to engage in with both the early settlers and with rival tribes. Referring to Mr. Hale, we learn that "their extensive plantations of maize, beans, and pumpkins excited the admiration of the first explorers." This early tendency has developed with years into a positive industry, and to-day the Grand River Indians are a peaceful, law-abiding, self-supporting people, quick to adopt educational as well as agricultural advancement, and skilled in many branches of trade and handicraft.

Primitive farming is almost unknown to them; the well-to-do have thrashing-machines, reapers, binders, fanning-mills and most of the modern improvements connected therewith. The poorer have their little plot of soil, plant purple corn and potatoes, and eke out a livelihood by basket-weaving, mat-braiding, and making axe handles, lacrosse sticks, hickory whip handles, and the score of other things that Indian fingers are so deft at, and this happy condition has been attained solely by individual industry.

Very little education is necessary to make an Indian a shrewd and judicious business man;



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he adapts himself quickly to trading, bargaining, investing, and the principles of interest, consequently he permits few opportunities of doubling his little possessions to slip by unheeded. As farmers the Iroquois are unquestionably successful, as seen from the fact that the grain markets of Brantford, the nearest town, are largely supplied from this reserve.



AN INDUSTRIOUS PAGAN.

Heming 71.