

importance, or rather lack of importance, there being no economic value attached to any of their productions; and the only interest involved in the question being, therefore, that which decides in what particular stage of formation of the various finds, so to speak, of the earth's crust, or epochs in the world's material history, that portion of it which comprises the territory now known as "these United Counties" arose from out the depths.

EARLY HISTORY.

With this term we are naturally inclined to associate only the early settlement of the country by the present dominant race. That the county, however, had a history, modern—very modern—compared with the events unfolded by geological research, yet ancient relatively with its "early settlement," is apparent to all, though the details are familiar but to few. It is not our purpose here to discuss the probabilities of this section being once inhabited by an extinct race whose former existence is clearly proven by geological scientific research, at a time preceding by cycles of ages the period of "the Creation," as it is popularly understood; neither to determine the time and circumstances of the advent to this part of the Continent of that other race, not yet extinct, but which, driven to the wall by the white intruder, is gradually wasting away under the influence of what we are pleased to term civilization. Nor can any object be gained by speculation as to their origin; whether they came by migration from the south-west across Behrings straits, as some scientists assert is proven by tradition, legend and geography combined; or whether, as is quite as stoutly affirmed by others, who bring forward similar arguments to establish their theory, they were descended from the Norsemen, whose inclinations or necessities drove them to the south-west. Nor is it matter of importance, in connection with our present sketch, how comes it that the Indians, with whom more recent discoveries have shown the greater part of the North American continent (including that portion we have now under discussion) to have been peopled—are of a different race, with characteristics in direct antagonism to those of the more southern tribes described by Columbus, Cortez and Pizarro. The former found the West Indies populated by a peaceful, quiet people, ruled over by Caciques, enjoying existence, and knowing no war-cry, stake, or crimson trophy. Cortez found the Aztecs in a still more progressive state,—residents of cities, advanced in the arts of civilization; builders of causeways, dwellings and temples, and tillers of the soil. While on the southern continent Pizarro conquered a nation which were only inferior to their conquerors in the arts and artifices of war, deceit and dishonor. In fact, the Mexican and Peruvian were admitted types of civilization which ere long would have emulated, if not surpassed, eastern stages of progression, had not a more cruel and warlike race crushed out the national instinct, and planted its germs upon the ruins.

The people who inhabited the wilds which now compose the fertile vales and plains and table-lands of the northshore of Ontario, belonged to none of these, but to the Algonquin family of a Confederacy consisting of three very powerful tribes, the Antaonais and Hurons being the other two, who possessed the whole territory north of the chain of great lakes, and who had from time immemorial carried on fierce war against the celebrated "Five Nations," or Iroquois, who possessed