

is only known to us as embracing rude and savage hunter tribes; and both physically and intellectually the Chippeways were inferior to the Iroquois and Hurons. The latter displayed a manifest aptitude for civilization. In war they repeatedly effected and maintained extensive and powerful combinations. Their agricultural operations gave proof of a systematic and continuous cultivation of the soil. Corn, especially, was grown to a great extent. Tobacco also was so extensively cultivated by one of the tribes of Upper Canada as to lead to its designation by the French Jesuit Missionaries of the seventeenth century as the *Petunians*, or Tobacco Growers. Moreover, their knowledge and practice of agriculture appear to have originated independently of all European influence; and but for their fatal involvement in the struggle between the colonists and the representatives of the mother country, there seemed a reasonable prospect of such an Iroquois civilization being developed in the western districts of the state of New York, as might have enabled these representatives of the ancient owners of the soil to share in the gradual advancement of European arts and progress, instead of being trodden under heel in the march of civilization.*

Of Indian skulls dug up within the Canadian district once pertaining to the Huron or Wyandot branch of the Iroquois stock, I had observed and cursorily examined a considerable number before my attention was especially drawn to the peculiar characteristics now under consideration, owing to my repeated rejection of those which turned up, as failing to furnish specimens of the assigned typical American head. Since then I have carefully examined and measured twenty-nine Indian skulls, with the following results:—

* La Hontan estimated the Iroquois, when first known to Europeans, at 70,000. At the present time they number about 7000, including those in Canada; and they still exhibit traces of the superiority which once pertained to them in comparison with other Indian tribes. The very name of a Mohawk still fills with dread the lodges of the Chippeways; and the Algonquin Indians settled on the Canadian reserves on Lake Couchiching and Rice Lake have been known repeatedly to desert their villages, and camp out in the woods, or on an island, from the mere rumour of a Mohawk having been seen in the vicinity.