

INTRODUCTION.

Frequent and extended visits to their principal Reservation, on the border of the Grand River, in the Counties of Brant and Haldimand (the only one, in fact, where representatives of the once severed peoples are indiscriminately massed together) coupled with a residence of nearly twelve years in the immediate neighborhood—put me in the way of acquiring an intimate knowledge of the appearance, manners, and racial customs of those Indians, forming, originally, the six independent tribes of the Mohawks, Tuscaroras, Onondagas, Senecas, Oneidas, and Cayugas, who effected lodgment in Canada. This friendly junction of opportunity has, with a suitable quantum of archæologic research, permitted me, likewise, to glean useful data concerning the traditions and history of the federated bodies—bodies long existent, widely known, as such, at the period when they turned their faces in our direction.

I propose, therefore (making slight pretence to thoroughness, and conscious of exceeding fallibili-