

Grand River Reserve. The invitation was heartily and unanimously accepted. A resolution was passed affiliating the Six Nations with the Provincial Association, and, at a regular special meeting of the Council of the Reserve represented by the Superintendent and Sachems present, held in the historic Court House of the ancient capital on the same evening, the affiliation was after a long and interesting discussion formally ratified. Those who were so fortunate as to be present were strongly impressed with the dignity, the courtesy, the oratory, the moderation in debate, which characterised the proceedings of the Indian Council. Our meeting to-day is in compliance with the cordial invitation then extended. We are here as guests of the Six Nations. But we are also in a sense their hosts. We welcome them to our *Kanonsionni*, our "Long House." For the first time their council is represented at this meeting by a delegate from each of the tribes formally appointed and sitting as a member of our society. The simple fact that the confederated nations have publicly evinced a desire to associate themselves in the promotion of historical study is in itself significant. Already foremost in intelligence, in physique, and in military prowess, they have taken a forward step which distinguishes them still more from the other native communities of America. They are, it is believed, the first aboriginal community on the continent to manifest such an interest. The results, in a deeper and more intimate knowledge of the history, archæology, traditions, customs, and folk-lore of the American Indian will be looked for with sympathetic interest by historical students and men of science in every land. On the other hand the Indians themselves should derive much advantage from the forward movement. An earnest attempt to co-operate in studies so important and beneficial cannot but tend to elevate the Iroquois and Delawares, the Nanticokes and Tuteloes, to a higher plane of culture and civilization. The result depends upon their own zeal and persistency, much more than upon the encouragement of their white brothers.

THE EXPLORATION OF THE GRAND RIVER DISTRICT.

From many points of view, to-day's gathering is worthy of being regarded as an important event in the annals both of the Six Nations and of this Association. We are met upon historical ground. When Champlain visited the shores of the Georgian Bay at the beginning of the 17th century, the north shore of Lake Erie including the district in which we are now assembled, was occupied by a numerous population, kindred in race and language to the Hurons and Iroquois. Taking no part in the wars between the latter they were called by the French