

proof in the completed volume, that no part of this interval has been spent in book-making ; but, on the contrary, that we have here the notes of the observant traveller in all their freshness and original piquancy. And it would be difficult to conceive of one better fitted to travel for us in a strange wild land, among the savage children of its forests and prairies, than an artist, with sketch-book and note-book in one. An observant eye he must have, a keen appreciation of every striking minutiae of detail, and a discriminating perception of all that is most characteristic in the strange locality and its stranger occupants ; but along with this it is rare to find the painter gifted with any power of the pen. He will open out to you all the felicitous pencillings of his sketch-book, and all the rich coloring of his portfolio, but his art goes no farther ; and with the dumb eloquence of his canvas must the student be satisfied. Here, however, without any ambitious attempt at literary workmanship, we have a spirit-stirring journal of adventures and strange perils encountered among the Indians of the North-West, for the purpose of preserving, by means of the pencil, some permanent record of races already changing, and destined ere long to pass away.

The term of fourteen years is no very long period, yet it is a strange proof of the contrast which that wild North-West presents to our eastern clearings, that such an interval could be allowed to pass between our author's observations and their publication, without any change in the tenses of his verbs being needful. His own experiences in his native Canadian Village, as referred to in his preface, sufficiently illustrate this. Among its primitive log-houses and temporary frame-buildings on the banks of Ontario, he had passed his boyhood, familiar with the Indians, who still found their game among the water-fowl of the Bay, or in the thickets of the surrounding forest, and were then rather attracted than scared, by the diminutive clearings of the earlier colonists. But the same energy which at a later period sustained our Canadian artist in his perilous adventures among the tribes of the far West, led him in earlier years to visit Europe for the facilities it afforded in the study of his profession as a painter. With funds, exceedingly moderate in amount, but all amassed by his own sturdy toil, he passed months of profitable study amid the teachings of Rome's immortal treasury of art ; and, if we mistake not, has, pencil in hand, had a peep at some nooks in each of the four quarters of the globe. But his Canadian village did not