

ORIGIN OF THE ABORIGINES OF CANADA.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1880,

— BY —

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About two years and a half ago, one of your secretaries, Mr. Clint, read a very interesting and exhaustive paper on the aborigines of Canada. My subject is a much narrower one, and one upon which, fortunately for me, Mr. Clint has barely touched. At the same time I may be spared a description of the more important tribes and their classification by referring my auditors to the paper in question.

Eleven families of American Indians are represented more or less completely in Canada, taking that term in its widest acceptation, as extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Arctic Ocean to the great lakes. These are the Algonquins, whose tribes, including the extinct Bethucks of Newfoundland and the Blackfeet in the far west, have been found from the extreme Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains; the Wyandot-Iroquois, so well known in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, from the Lorette Hurons to the Oneidas of the Thames; the Dacotahs of Manitoba, consisting of Sioux or Dacotahs proper and Assiniboins; the Tinneh, Chipweyans or Athabascans, a large family, extending from the Saskatchewan northwards to the area of the Esquimaux, and westward to the Rocky Mountains; the Thlinkeets or Koljuches on the borders of Alaska; and the Innuït or Esquimaux, stretching along the