

quian tribes. In other respects, especially in agriculture, there was some divergence between them; while the differences between Iroquois and Algonquins were somewhat wider. Although possessing an individuality of their own, the Hurons held a middle position between Algonquins and Sioux. Some details in one representative branch of Huron art, furnishing an example in this connection, viz., the decoration of clay pipes, will be found in subsequent pages.

This survey of the ethnological features of the Huron stock, although necessarily brief, must suffice for the present to show their resemblances to Algonquins in some particulars, and differences in others. As some isolated feature, such as language, is too often over-valued by ethnologists in the classification of races, let us therefore make a further survey of these two chief aboriginal stocks of Ontario, in the other branch of research, viz., their physical traits.

People who live in small communities, like those of the Algonquin tribes, or in remote corners of mountain regions, are smaller in stature than people of the plains, where inter-communication takes place more freely. Some bands of Sioux were athletely built, and well proportioned, the men being often over six feet high.

In stature and physical form, the aborigines of North America east of the Rockies ranged in considerable variety between two extreme physical types, viz., the tall and lithe form of the western plains, and the squat, broad form at the northeast, the extreme examples of the latter being the Eskimo and some of the Algonquian-speaking tribes nearest them. Ontario Indians were hybrids or intermediate types between the two forms, ranging variously from the one to the other.

The physical characters of the Hurons had an intermediate position between the two extremes. If the bones of their ossuaries may be taken as affording us any evidence, of which I have seen a considerable number, the stature of the men seldom exceeded 5 feet 8 inches, and was oftener 5 feet 6 inches. This stature was much less than the common stature of the Iroquois, but resembled the modern Ojibways and Mississagas, now living upon the Ontario reserves. Here, then, we find another resemblance between the Hurons and the Algonquins.

While the bones of Hurons and their allied tribes, as found in Ontario bonepits to-day, (and about 200 such communal pits of the Hurons have been examined more or less vaguely by the white settlers, and reported upon with even greater vagueness), show them to have been chiefly medium in stature, sometimes, however, bones of tall persons are occasionally found in the Huron pits. In the County of Simcoe, Dr. J. C. Tache found a few large bones in one bonepit, out of 16 pits that he examined. The southward range of the short Eskimo type has been considerable, W. K. Moorehead having found bone remains in Ohio mounds of what seems to have been the short race (similar to modern Ojibways and Mississagas), as far south as the Muskingum River.

The Iroquois, many of whom were stalwart, were larger than Hurons, perhaps by mixture with taller races than Algonquins, and in a much less degree, therefore, did they resemble Algonquins than Hurons. In the matter of average stature, then, there was this order discernible amongst the aborigines:—(1) Algonquins, (2) Hurons, (3) Iroquois, (4) Sioux.

Finally, the stature of Hurons of the present day, known to be actual descendants, without much intermixture, of the old Hurons, reveals the medium type to which they belonged. Leon Gerin, writing of the Hurons of