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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 87.—THE APOSTLE TO THE INDIANS.

THE man to whom this honorable title has justly been assigned might also appropriately be designated the Pioneer Foreign Missionary. Fifty years before

Wm. Carey started his missionary enterprise, John Eliot left England to begin his work of preaching the Gospel to the Indians of North America. He was the first Protestant missionary that ever left Britain to work among the heathen in foreign lands. His father was a man of good estate, and lived at Nazing, Essex, a village on the borders of Hertfordshire, and close to Hoddesdon, Herts. Nazing was the home of not a few of the Puritan fathers, many of whom left their native village two hundred and fifty years ago, went to America, and became the founders of influential families there. John Eliot's father gave him a good university education, and had the means to start him well in life; but the son forsook all, and at thirty years of age devoted himself to mission work.

He endured untold hardships in that desolate and trying region, but remained at his post till, at eighty-three years of age, he died. Probably he was the first to translate the English Bible into a heathen language.

He wrote a book which he entitled, "The day breaking, if not the sun rising, of the Gospel with the Indians in New England."

This book, which is now very rare, was dedicated to Oliver Cromwell, and in it Eliot tells of his experience among the Indians. One quotation will serve to show the hardships endured. He writes: "I have not been dry day nor night from the third day of the week to the sixth, but have travelled from place to place in that condition, and at night I pull off my boots, and wring my stockings, and on with them again, and so continue." "But," he adds, "God steps in and helps me."

Thus John Eliot went forth like a second John

the Baptist, making a highway for the spread of the Gospel among the wild redskins of the new world.

Many anecdotes are related of this excellent man. He was said to have been so busy with his thoughts regarding the Indians that he could

