

THE LOG SHANTY BOOK-SHELF FOR 1898.

It may be well to explain once more the origin of the several groups of books which have been displayed, under the title of "The Log Shanty Book-shelf," in the Pioneer Cottage on the Industrial Exhibition grounds during the annual Exhibition in September, now for quite a series of years past. A youthful member of an early pioneer settler's family was induced by his literary tastes and proclivities to collect such books as could at the time be secured on the several subjects which engaged his attention. In a newly cleared district, books were not largely to be met with, but a few were found, and these with the after accumulations in happier times have formed the several collections which have been displayed under the above designation.

It was natural that the youthful student and observer should acquire an interest in the aborigines of the country. The Red man then was no unfamiliar object. His wigwams were to be seen here and there at the proper season on the banks of our rivers and around the shores of our bays; notably those around the Bay of Toronto, before the inroads of the lake had destroyed its sandy barrier in that portion of it which was known as Ashbridge's Bay. I remember a native family of the name of Kishigo always to be met with at the proper season in this quarter. Bows and arrows made by the Indians were easily procurable from the Kishigo's. The native battle-axe or tomahawk, the war club, flint knives, stone arrow-heads, fragments of Indian earthenware and pipes, sometimes the latter in curious combination with the tomahawk, the tube from the bow passing down through the handle. Also from the Kishigo's, the meaning of many native words and phrases was gathered by direct questioning, or by listening to their talk one with another; in this way all, even youngsters among us, came to understand well such words as wigwam, papoose, wampum, moose, squaw (properly *aiguaw*), mokok (a kind of birch-bark case or package), moccasin, toboggan, etc., with such expressions as "Kennikenick," (a kind of dry touchwood that could be smoked like tobacco), Iskitte wabah (firewater, any kind of spirituous drink), kaween, (the strong negative Kaween—No, or not so), and the conciliatory term "nidghee," friend or brother, as in the familiar address "Tiyaw, nidghee." "Well met" or "How do you do, friend." But books on the Red man were scarce and were highly valued accordingly when met with. It is from a humble gathering formed under unfavorable circumstances such as these that the collection of works on the Red man's history, habits and language here given had its origin.