

THE ABORIGINES OF NORTH AMERICA.

The country from which these people emigrated, and the time of their departure are unknown. The Indians have no history of their own if we except their oral traditions. The probability is they originally came from Asia, crossing Behring's straits, and with each succeeding influx migrating further south, till the difference of food and climate in the southern regions, created after many generations a dissimilarity between them, that gives the idea of different races. In religion they were all Pagans, yet all holding to the idea of a Great Spirit whom they called *Ma-neh-to*. Each tribe was distinguished by some kind of heraldic symbol, representing some animal peculiar to the country. Hostilities between the tribes were common, arising frequently out of one party encroaching upon the hunting grounds of the other. If peace was desired they produced the 'calumet' or pipe out of which each chief smoked, blowing the smoke all round, inviting the surrounding elements to sanction the act; a reddened hatchet was buried, symbolical of the oblivion of past hostility, and an exchange of presents followed.

The tribe inhabiting the margins of the great lakes were the *Hurons*, variously called *Ouendats*, *Yendats*, and *Wyandots*: adjoining them were the *Algonquins*; a tribe of whom occupied Montreal island. On the river Saguenay and its lakes were the *Montagnais*, *Bersiamites*, and *Hedgehogs*; on the Ottawa the *Ouataouais* or *Ottawas*: on the St. Lawrence the *Sokakis*, a mongrel race. The most powerful branch of the Indian family adjoining the waters of the St. Lawrence were the *Agonnousionni* confederation, better known as the *Iroquois* or *Five* (now *Six*) *nations*. The tribes of the *Five nations* were known by the English as *Mohawks*, *Oneidas*, *Onondagas*, *Cayugas*, *Senecas*; the French called them respectively *Agniers*, *Onneoyuhs*, *Onontunes*, *Aniegues*, and *Tsonnonthouens*. They were once very powerful, and figured conspicuously in all the wars of America. On the margin of Lake Superior were the *Nipissings* and *Miamis*, small tribes. The *Souriquois* or *Micmas*, a tribe of the Algonquin family, resided in the Lower Provinces. There were three other tribes, residents around the head waters of the River St. John, New Brunswick, the *Abenequais*, the *Etchemins*, and the *Milicetes*. The *Monguash* tribe inhabited Nova Scotia. During the early history of Canada, several southern tribes emigrated northward, and either exterminated or drove some of the northern tribes further north, and occupied their places.

Many of the tribes are now extinct, or united with others. The last of the native tribe of Newfoundland, disappeared about 35 years ago. There are several tribes of Indians, occupying the