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Captain Brant and The Old King.

THE TRAGEDY OF WYOMING.

The fall of Quebec in 1759 ended the long and bloody contest between France and Great Britain for the mastery of a continent. A moment's reflection will suffice to remind us of the momentous issues involved in this struggle between the two competing civilizations. An indigenous and barbaric people, known as the Iroquois, or Five Nations, the bulk of whom dwelt in what is now known as Central and Western New York, was an important if not controlling factor in this eventful consummation. In the war afterwards waged by the American colonies for independence, though sadly diminished, they were sufficiently numerous to form an appreciable element of the forces which Britain hurled against her rebellious offspring. Wasted by wars, and overwhelmed by the tidal wave of European emigration they have, within less than a century, peacefully surrendered an empire to the intruding race, and have disappeared from history as they soon will from the gaze of men.

The recorded opinions regarding this historic race are mostly idealistic and irreconcilable. "Romans of the West" is the eulogistic title bestowed by their earliest observers on this warlike people before they had become enervated and corrupted by contact with European civilization; the "Indians of Indians" they are termed in the glowing pages of Parkman; kindly conservators of peace and the domestic affections, is their surprising characterization by Horatio Hale; a "gifted and progressive race" they were declared to be by Morgan. On the other hand, they are portrayed by writers, possessing equal opportunities of observation, as monsters of cruelty, devoid of all the nobler attributes of humanity.