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THE ABORIGINES OF CANADA

UNDER THE BRITISH CROWN,

WITH A GLANCE AT THEIR CUSTOMS, CHARACTERISTICS,
AND HISTORY;

BY

WILLIAM CLINT,

(READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY, 23RD MARCH, 1878.)

THE question of our relations with the Indian inhabitants of this vast country should be an interesting one. It should be interesting firstly because on us, as Christians, the duty seems to have been imposed of leading these people out of the darkness of heathenism and superstition to a knowledge of the Christian religion, of raising them from their squalor and ignorance to an improved position physically, socially and mentally, and of preparing them for the exercise of those rights of citizenship which are the birthright of intelligent British subjects of every color and creed. The subject should be especially interesting too, because it has fallen to the lot of the present generation to open out for settlement the great North-West, the future garden of the Dominion, and we are thus brought face to face with the Indian in his native wilds. It is necessary that the Indian hunting-ground should be in a large measure given up to the plough and sickle of the White man; it has been so ordered by Providence, doubtless for the ultimate good of the Indian himself, as well as the White man; but it is not necessary that this result should be

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