

A History of the Five Indian Nations (The Iroquois)

By HON. CADWALLADER COLDEN

Hon. Cadwallader Colden was considered the best man in the British American colonies on Indian affairs. His book is a masterpiece in its intimate and comprehensive review of Indian life.

His history of the Five Indian Nations was written to lay more completely before the public the importance of the Five Nations or Iroquois to the colony of New York, as a barrier against the French and a means of controlling the West. It may have been necessary to teach the King and Councils, Lords of Trade, etc., the real position, influence, and power of the Iroquois Confederacy, but Colden was too well informed a man not to perceive that the day would come when every scrap of authentic information in regard to the Indians would be valuable. He had access to sources of information by reason of his official position, not unusually open to writers, all of which he made full use.

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