

INDIAN CUSTOMS AND FOLK-LORE.

The connection of the Six Nations with our Society may be productive of immediate beneficial results. Under the direction of the Minister of Education, Mr. David Boyle has for some time been prosecuting investigations upon the Reserve with a view to throwing light upon the religion, the customs, and the folk-lore of the Six Nations. His report will make these known to all students interested in Indian races. The work he has undertaken may be greatly furthered by the hearty co-operation of the chiefs, warriors, and women of the Reserve. They will no doubt feel the responsibility resting upon them as affiliated with this Society to give him full and accurate information, so that when the printed book appears it may contain a trustworthy and authoritative account of the matters referred to.

We are all engaged in this work for the love of the work and the good of the whole people. The national pride of the Six Nations as well as their interest in the subject will no doubt assure their hearty sympathy and active help to inquiries which are intended to make the literary and scientific world acquainted with the religion, the customs, the traditions, the achievements, and the possibilities for the future of the great confederacy.

A famous story represents Tecumseh as distinguishing the characters of Brock and Proctor by saying, "Proctor says to Indians, Go and fight the Americans; Brock says to Indians, Come and fight the Americans." Our Society invites its Indian members and friends to study and record their native history, customs and traditions, but does so rather in the spirit of Brock than of Proctor. We say to them, not "go and study your history," but rather, "come and let us work together in preserving your records and ours." And yet, as I have already intimated, the result in their case, as in ours, will depend largely, if not altogether, upon their own earnestness and persistency in the work they have undertaken, rather than upon our help, willing as we are to further their exertions.

NEW SOCIETIES.

One of our most urgent duties will be to cover the Province with local historical societies at all important points. I have the pleasure of announcing that since our last annual meeting a society has been formed at Woodstock, and others are being organized at Ottawa and Simcoe. At each of these centres there is much valuable and interesting material to be collected, arranged and preserved by publication or otherwise.