

warriors of the Sacs and Foxes visited Boston, and, as he says, "danced a war-dance, on the Common in full costume to the delight of the boy spectators, of whom I was one." Soon after that he read Cooper's novels, and became so thoroughly identified with his red men that he used to dream and talk about them constantly.

It was while Parkman was at Harvard that he conceived the idea of writing the story of the French and English in North America, and he at once began to prepare for it, not only by study and reading, but in his vacations, by visiting scenes of historic interest, going on long camping expeditions, and becoming acquainted with Indian tribes in New York, New England, and southern Canada.

Soon after leaving college, he and a friend went West to the Black Hills. As he says in the introduction to the "Conspiracy of Pontiac:" "Here, by the camp-fire, or in the canoe, I gained familiar acquaintance with the men and scenery of the wilderness. In 1846 I visited various primitive tribes of the Rocky Mountains, and was, for a time, domesticated