

comparison and a thorough sifting of the statements of both parties. Nearly every foot of our extensive territory has been fought over by the two races, and almost every stream and mountain has its history or tradition. The exploits and dangers of the pioneer settlers have been recorded in numerous local chronicles, and a great mass of important material still remains in manuscript. Some valuable contributions towards such a work have of late been made, notably those of Mr. Francis Parkman and Mr. H. H. Bancroft, but the nearest approach to a detailed account of the aborigines of this country, prior to that of Mr. Schoolcraft, was "The Book of the Indians," published as long ago as 1841, the work of the late Samuel G. Drake, the father of the present writer.

Meantime, the rapid spread of the white race over the continent, the building of railroads, the search for the precious metals, thus bringing the two races into still closer contact, and especially the efforts of our government to prepare the Indian for citizenship,—all these agencies have made him an object of general interest and curiosity to a much greater degree than ever before. The future of his race, the "Indian Question," as it is called, is one of the vital questions of the day, and is receiving a large share of attention and study. To the recognition of this fact the present volumes owe their inspiration; and that they may help our people to a more just appreciation of their red brethren, and assist in the noble and philanthropic efforts now being made to right their wrongs and to secure justice to them in the future, is the earnest hope of the editor.

BOSTON, October 10, 1881.