

PREFACE.

At York Factory on Hudson Bay there lived, not very long ago, a man who had stored away in his mind one fixed resolution—it was to write a book.

“When I put down,” he used to say, “all that I have seen, and all that I haven’t seen, I will be able to write a good book.”

It is probable that had this man carried his intention into effect the negative portion of his vision would have been more successful than the positive. People are generally more ready to believe what a man hasn’t seen than what he has seen. So, at least, thought Karkakonias the Chippeway Chief at Pembina.

Karkakonias was taken to Washington during the great Southern War, in order that his native mind might be astonished by the grandeur of the United States, and by the strength and power of the army of the Potomac. Upon his return to his tribe he remained silent and impassive; his days were spent in smoking, his evenings in quiet contemplation; he spoke not of his adventures in