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The Primitive Life of the Wapanaki Women.



WE MUST go to the traditions of these people for a correct idea of their primitive life, though we will be helped somewhat if we make a close study of the characters of those of the race who are with us, as we can then judge of the character which was back of, and was expressed in that life. For these people are not of a plastic nature, and the Indian of to-day differs but little from the Indian of three centuries ago, differs little in characteristics, however much his habits of life and his customs may have changed.

Down to a recent period our notions of Indian customs were based upon the accounts written by the early colonists, but we have discovered that these writers mislead us—not intentionally of course—they, doubtless, meant to be truthful as well as just, but the conditions were against them. There were many phases of the Indian's life about which the earlier writers knew absolutely nothing, and besides, they were too strongly prejudiced against the people to deliver an unbiased judgment on what they did know. Furthermore, we may fairly