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[THE publishers respectfully and with confidence solicit the favour and attention of the public in behalf of this first attempt to render an account of the character of the American Indians attractive to the minds of youthful readers: they believe that it will be found to unite the interest of truth with the charm of fiction, and please the fancy while it stores the mind with valuable knowledge respecting a race of men whose origin, character, and actions have always proved a fertile and favourite theme for speculation and inquiry, although perhaps there is no subject of historical research that has given rise to so much of misstatement and exaggeration.

The publishers do not present this work as even a sketch of the history of the aborigines, but simply as an outline of their peculiar character and habits, illustrated with numerous anecdotes, of which it may be proper to remark, that none have been adopted in this work but such as were established and authenticated beyond the possibility of doubt or contradiction.

The materials of these volumes were collected by the author while engaged in the preparation of his larger work, the "Indian Lives," and the extensive popularity of that collection affords to the publishers ground for the belief, that the contents of the following pages will prove equally acceptable to their readers.

New-York, April, 1833.]