

INTRODUCTION

FRANCIS PARKMAN was born in Boston, September 16th, 1823. He was a delicate boy, and for that reason was sent out into the country when he was seven years old to live with his grandfather near Medford, Mass. He went to day-school there, and did not learn much; but in another school that he attended very willingly he gained knowledge that was to be of much use to him in later life. This was the school of the woods, where he picked up all sorts of lore about trees, stones, beasts and birds, which helped mightily in making real and vivid the background of the histories he was to write. After four years in the country he went back to Boston to live with his parents; and he entered Harvard at the age of seventeen.

When Francis Parkman was thirteen or fourteen years old a party of chiefs and