

## INDIAN LYRICS.

## IX.

## THE DELAWARES.

We passed the pleasant Orange\* river,  
Far in the wilderness to dwell,  
And to our hunting grounds forever  
Have bid a last and sad farewell.  
The Whiteman's system would enslave us,  
His customs with us disagree,  
So left the lands that Nature gave us  
To mingle with the Cherokee. †

Our fathers from the Great good Spirit  
That region held as their domain,  
He wished his children to inherit  
Wood, mountain, waters, glen and plain,  
To be the Mohicans' for ages,  
From Rappahannoc's boundary  
To where Penobscot's ‡ current rages,  
And Mississippi to the sea.

The Dutchmen first spoke fair and courteous;  
"Friends! bury deep the tomahawk,  
We came such tract of land to purchase  
As may be girt in three day's walk,"  
Three athletes strong and trained were  
Chosen  
Who moved and slept as do the hares,  
A district vast was thus enclosed,  
The choicest of the Delaware's.§

Now tradesmen, flushed with pride and  
passion,  
And dealers in the fiery drink,  
And colliers dressed in burgher fashion,  
Own valleys of the Minisink.  
Most lovely scenes were sold for trifles  
Near Blue-ridge and the Water-gap,  
For mirrors, beads and knives and rifles—  
The birth-right of Lenni-Lenape.

Though smooth the words by Yengeese  
spoken,  
Our braves dug up the hatchet—for  
By cheating was the treaty broken,  
They vowed revenge and went to war.  
The Iroquois said—near our border—  
"Lay down your arms—on us depend,"  
But soon they joined the wild disorder  
And proved a fierce, deceitful friend.

Thus while they called us—pagan—savage,  
Our race was plundered by the Whites,  
The red Mohawks would kill and ravage  
And harass us for days and nights,  
Our nation left the scenes of slaughter,  
Broke off in bands—of peace in quest,  
Supplanted by the mining squatter,  
To find asylum in the West.

\* Ancient name of the Hudson.

† See U.S. Indian reports, 1877.

‡ Its name indicates that it runs amongst  
rocks.

§ This is the name given to the Mohicans  
after Lord de la War had obtained large  
grants of their territory. They belonged to  
the nation called Lenni-Lenape.

Some mixed with roving tribes of Shawnees,  
Though once so famous and so great;  
Some sought the prairies of the Pawnees,  
To share their freedom and their fate.  
We've since received Reserves assigned us,  
An undisputed right of chase,  
For there his laws no longer bind us,  
We live as suits the Indian race.

Our Tortoise was, by full admission,  
The Totem of the chiefs around,  
All owned the sway—from old tradition,  
Of Mohican—a name renowned.  
No more Potómac's brown savanna  
Shall móccassin or paddle seek,  
Nor waters of the Susquehanna,  
Nor sunny waves of Chesapeake.

The Paleface yet disease is bringing,  
And liquor that the heart depraves  
To those near council-lodge still clinging,  
And loath to leave their fathers' graves;  
The Pequods are exterminated—  
The doom the Narragansett shares,  
Had they not gone far-west—awaited  
The remnant of the Delaware's.

## LITERARY MISCELLANY.

CARDINAL MEZZOFANTI.—Joseph Cas-  
par Mezzofanti, linguist, philologist, and  
Cardinal priest, was born in Bologna,  
Italy, September 17, 1774. His parents  
being in humble life, his early educa-  
tion being mainly due to the discrimi-  
nating charity of some local ecclesiastics,  
by whose influence he was successively  
placed in one of the *Schule Pie*, and  
the Archiepiscopal Seminary of Bologna,  
in the latter of which he took his degree  
in philosophy at fifteen, and, upon the  
completion of his studies in theology,  
canon and civil law, received ordination  
eight years later. Meanwhile, he had  
not only acquired a thorough knowl-  
edge of Latin, Greek and Hebrew, but  
of several living languages of Europe  
and of the East. Appointed Professor  
of Arabic in the University of Bologna  
in 1797, he was deprived of his chair  
the following year for refusing to take  
the oath prescribed by the revolutionary  
authorities; but he was restored in  
1803, becoming also assistant-librarian  
to the *Institute*, and subsequently Pro-  
fessor of Oriental languages, only to be  
again unjustly dealt with by the aboli-  
tion of the latter office.

Thus reduced to comparative poverty,  
he devoted all the leisure time that  
could be spared from the duties of his