

## PREFACE

THIS is a story of woods and waters and pre-historic scenes. Hiawatha was the founder of the famous League of the Five Nations, or Iroquois. (The "Hiawatha" of Longfellow is a different being.) The Iroquois were a town-building people. The view is here adopted, that, as between the five Iroquois tribes themselves, he was originally a Mohawk, who spent some years in Onondaga and afterwards returned to his own "nation." Field scholars now identify the Mohawks with the Hochelagans, who had been driven out from the Montreal country by Algonkins, assisted by Hurons of the West, shortly before the formation of the League. The description of their town, Hochelaga, by Jacques Cartier in 1535, and its subsequent disappearance, is one of the most fairy-like tales in history. The present book is an attempt to picture the strange ideas of the Red Man's mind, life, and melancholy. It is an aboriginal romance, without a white man in it. The Indian is here represented in the chivalrous and reverent side of his nature. To un-