

INDIAN LIFE AND INDIAN HISTORY

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Indian life and Indian history by George Copway

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GEORGE COPWAY

**INDIAN LIFE AND
INDIAN HISTORY**



BEALP DANCE.

INDIAN LIFE
AND
INDIAN HISTORY,

BY AN INDIAN AUTHOR.

EMBRACING THE

TRADITIONS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS REGARDING
THEMSELVES, PARTICULARLY OF THAT MOST
IMPORTANT OF ALL THE TRIBES,

THE OJIBWAYS.

BY THE CELEBRATED KAH-GE-GA-GAH-BOWH,
Chief of the Ojibway Nation;

KNOWN ALSO BY THE ENGLISH NAME OF
GEORGE COPWAY.

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Of Boston, Mass.

THIS VOLUME,

WITH FEELINGS OF DEEP GRATITUDE,

AND SENTIMENTS OF THE HIGHEST RESPECT,

IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY

KAI-OE-GA GAB-BOWL.

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P R E F A C E.

IN compliance with the oft-repeated request of a number of literary friends I present this volume to the public. In doing so there is another motive that has influenced me, and I may be pardoned, if here, at the commencement of my task, I briefly record it.

In thus giving a sketch of my nation's history, describing its home, its country and its peculiarities and in narrating its traditionary legends I may awaken in the American heart a deeper feeling for the race of red-men and induce the pale-face to use greater effort to effect an improvement in their social and political relations.

You must know that my advantages have not been very great for the attainment of knowledge ; that, in common with my forest brethren I have, as the saying is, " been brought up in the woods." I feel incompe-

tent for my work, but, am impelled forward by the thought that the nation whose history I here feebly sketch seems passing away and that unless a work like this is sent forth, much, very much that is interesting and instructive in that nation's actions will with it pass away.

Though I cannot wield the pen of a *Macaulay* or the graceful wand of an *Irving* with which to delineate an Indian's life, yet I move a pen guided by an intimate knowledge of the subject it traces out, the joys and the sorrows it records.

It is not many years since I laid aside my bow and arrows, and the love for the wild forest, born with me, I yet retain. Twenty months passed in a school in Illinois has been the sum-total of my schooling, save that I have received in the wide world. During my residence of six years among the pale-faces I have acquired a knowledge of men and things, much, very much more I have yet to learn, and it is my desire that my brethren in the far west may share with me my crust of information; for this end I have labored and do labor, and will continue to labor, till success crowns my efforts or my voice and hand are silent in the home of the departed.

To the Christian and the Philanthropist, I present