OUR DEBT TO THE RED MAN; THE FRENCH-INDIANS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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Our debt to the red man; the French-Indians in the development of the United States by Louise Seymour Houghton

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LOUISE SEYMOUR HOUGHTON

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BY

Louise Seymour Houghton

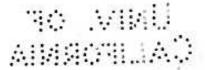
The Hon. Francis E. Leupp FORMERLY INDIAN COMMISSIONER

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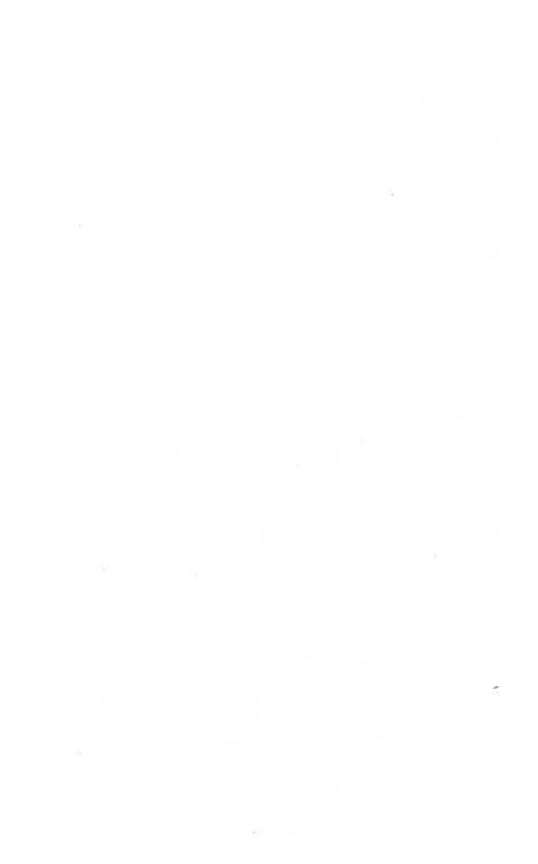
The Alpine Press, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

H68

To my Sons

Augustus Seymour Houghton And Henry Houghton

The joy of my declining years, and whose interest in my work has made it doubly delightful.



Foreword

THE mixed-blood Indian is so widely regarded with disfavor, owing to the superficial criticism heaped upon him in certain quarters, that Mrs. Houghton's book will make a strong appeal to all fairminded students of our aboriginal race problem. The too prevalent impression is doubtless based on the fact that, of late years, the natural resources of some Indian reservations have attracted speculative white adventurers, not a few of whom, taking Indian women to wife, have sadly neglected the children born of their union. But, as those of us know who are familiar at first hand with frontier conditions, any such sweeping judgment is unjust; for on every side we meet squawmen who, though uneducated in the ordinary sense, have proved their possession of character and force, and have devoted their best faculties to the improvement of their families and the advancement of the tribes with which they are affiliated.

In the volume before us, Mrs. Houghton has largely confined her observations to the Indians who trace their white blood to French sources. Her great store of data is the fruit of a painstaking search of several years through records ancient and modern, official and scientific, religious and literary. I am glad to note that, after showing how much we owe the mixedbloods for their contributions toward the upbuilding

FOREWORD

of our country, she advises our responding appreciatively with three measures in particular: the prompt
emancipation of all competent red wards from Government bondage; the systematic revision of our
ragged mass of laws touching Indian affairs, and their
reduction to a self-consistent code; and the provision
for the opening of a court for the claims of Indians
against the United States — a step which might be
trusted to relieve honest claims of the suspicious savor
many of them have absorbed from contact with scandal-tainted neighbors.

FRANCIS E. LEUPP.

Washington, D. C., March 25, 1918.