

**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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OUR DEBT TO THE RED MAN

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THE FRENCH-INDIANS
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

BY

Louise Seymour Houghton

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
The Hon. Francis E. Leupp
FORMERLY INDIAN COMMISSIONER

Illustrated



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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 fair-minded 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 mixed-bloods 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.