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OUR INDEBTEDNESS TO THE AMERICAN INDIAN

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CIVILIZATION and culture are the result of an extensive co-operative system to which every individual inhabiting our globe contributed and still contributes his share. No achievement, be it literary, economic or scientific, has ever been accomplished by a single man or group of people, without the aid that has resulted from the efforts of those who had previously directed their energies towards the attainment of a certain goal. Our present philosophical systems owe their origin to the studies of human mind and nature made by ancient and mediaeval scholars; our writers draw their inspiration from the works of their predecessors, and our great scientific inventions have been facilitated by the former endeavours of the savants of all nations. Thus, our present civilization consists of an infinite number of elements contributed by every people, by every nation and by every race of this universe. American culture, for instance, has been effected by the combined efforts of the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Teutons, Slavs, Semites, Mongols, and others; each of these groups contributing its particular, typical portion.

It should not, however, be supposed that only the higher and more advanced types of nations participate in the creation of a certain form of civilization. In this respect everybody's co-operation is invited and welcome, and no services, even those of a most primitive character, are rejected. We Americans, especially, who are probably the most civilized and advanced people in the world, owe a great portion of our progress and success to primitive races—above all to the American Indian. How many of us will, in blissful ignorance, underestimate and even ridicule the intellectual powers of the Red Man, and boast of the superior attainments of the White Race? And yet, many of our accomplishments may be traced directly to the assistance received