

is due mainly to their narratives of Indian life. And if we add, that during the last decade our painters, sculptors and musicians have been gradually attracted by Indian subjects, we shall have a complete picture of the great debt which we owe to the Indian of North and South America in the field of literature and art. Furthermore our history, so resplendent with brilliant characters, has been embellished—thanks to the Red Man—by a number of heroes who could easily adorn the history of any nation. Pocahontas, Pontiac, Tecumseh, Brant, and others, have won for themselves a place in the annals of mankind and have contributed their share to the glorious past of our nation.

But the bulk of the Indian's contribution to civilization and culture does not lie in our intellectual and literary attainments. It is our material life that owes him an everlasting debt and upon which he bestowed benefaction after benefaction, gift after gift. Take our commercial life, for instance, of which we are so justly proud. Who thinks today of the fact, that our railways and railroads follow exactly the paths, made, trodden and kept up at an enormous sacrifice, by the ancient, pre-Columbian Indian? Verily, it was not an empty boast, when in 1847 an Iroquois chief appealed to the White man for help upon the following grounds:

“The Empire State, as you love to call it, was once laced by our trails from Albany to Buffalo; trails that we had trodden for centuries; trails worn so deep by the Iroquois that they became your roads of travel, as your possessions gradually ate into those of my people. Your roads still traverse the same lines of commerce which bound one part of the Long-House to the other. Have we, the early possessors of this land, no share in your history?”

Our industry, stupendous as it is, has been enriched by a number of substantial devices which we learned from our red neighbor. Every grocer knows and appreciates the value of arnotto, the famous dye for staining cheese and butter, but he is not aware of the fact that it has been given to us by the Indian. In like manner we received from the Red Man the cochineal, a red tinge for animal fibres and for coloring certain foods, and also a score of other dyes. Ornamental timbres and dye-woods we owe to the previous knowledge and experimentation of the Indian; and the various uses to which we apply mahogany and log-wood today, are the results of his early, though primitive, enterprises. Llama, wool, alpaca, hemsps and fibres are other industrial articles imparted to us by the Indian with a generous hand. But above all, by showing us the usefulness of cautchuc (India Rubber) which we employ nowadays so extensively in mending old things and forming new ones, the American native has won the right to claim the everlasting gratitude of our manufacturers. And these items by no means exhaust the long list of contributions made by the Indian to our industrial progress.