

CARDIGAN.*

STEEPED in the lore of the Mohawk Valley—one of the fairest dimples on the face of Mother Earth, and keenly appreciative of the long struggle of the white people born on its soil, first against red skins and then against red coats, Mr. Chambers, with a hand of an artist, has touched the landscape anew, enriching it with fresh associations. Wisely (after a prose introduction and a blazing "ghost-flower" poem of beauty) he refers the lovers of exact history to the writers of it, while to his own book he allures the lovers of fiction.

His is a fine picture of American life in those critical years just before the Revolutionary War, when households were drifting to division on the question of serving king or people. The hero and heroine are the wards of Sir William Johnson, at whose home we meet some of the noted personages of the time, those great land-speculators, who also figured as royal governors, Lord Dunmore and Governor Tryon ("Bloody Billy"), Joseph Brandt, the Butlers, and many another lord and lady, both red and white. Young Cardigan, accustomed to Indian and frontier life, is entrusted with a message to the Cayuga Indians, and journeys through the forest to their camp fires.

The book is crowded with texts and pictures concerning wood runners, friendly and unfriendly Indians, and the settlers, English, French and Dutch, that made up the cosmopolitan population of New York—a typical American state. There are pictures of the sweet, free life of the woods, descriptions of gay colonial entertainments at Fort Pitt and Albany, and then come the quarrels of the patriots and Tories. The great chief Logan, and Patrick Henry appear. The

* Cardigan. By Robert W. Chambers. Harper & Bros.
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hero, after numerous adventures, has an experience of prison life in Boston, but escapes to take part in the Concord fight.

This is an historical novel well worthy of the name. It will take high rank in the amazing product of fiction which marks this first year of the new century.

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