PREFACE.

In writing the History of the Indians of Berks County, Pa., I attempted to gather all the reliable information upon the subject. It would be more satisfactory if some of the incidents could have been more definitely located, and if the dates of others could have been given with greater accuracy, while many interesting transactions between the whites and Indians, which would add much to this narrative, were never written, and are now beyond our reach.

The relics in the county are very numerous, and had cuts been given to exhibit all the peculiarities, it would have been necessary to multiply the illustrations. All the important features of the stone implements of the Indians are figured, and will aid the people of our advanced state of civilization to form an approximate idea of the life of the Indians, when they lived in their original style, before they came in contact with the white people and changed some of their customs by reason of the improved utensils and weapons obtained from them.

D. B. BRUNNER.

Reading, Pa., April, 1881.
INTRODUCTION.

We live in an age of research. The genius of man is assiduously striving to discover some new principle in philosophy, or to invent a machine to give a new impulse to our varied enterprises. The geologist, anxious to know the history of the formation of the earth, enters the deepest recesses, examines the rocks and fossils, and reads in them the changes through which our globe passed before it became fit for the habitation of man. The student of history is no less diligent in his researches. Not content with a general knowledge of events, he goes through all the avenues of the past to trace out the successive changes of a place and is often compelled to lament that so many important items of local history are buried in oblivion. The history of states and counties have been written, containing full descriptions of their organization, progress and development. Even families trace their genealogy back as far as they can; and these records do not only afford interesting reading for their descendants, but frequently preserve important historical incidents.

Several histories of Berks County have been published, but some important events connected with our early settlements were omitted, and especially that part which relates to the Indians that peopled this county before its occupation by the Europeans. There can scarcely be anything more interesting to us than the thrilling events that occurred in the immediate vicinity of our birthplaces. How intensely interesting it would be to read a detailed account of our county, from its first occupation by the aborigines to the present time, giving all its vicissitudes while under the dominion of the Indians, and all the hardships, trials and sufferings of our forefathers and their dreadful conflicts with them. Some of the principal transactions during a period of the greatest commotion have been preserved in the Colonial Records, but some of our old citizens still give us other interesting rehearsals of trials and escapes from Indian barbarity to which there is no allusion made in the Records, and, yet, when compared with authentic history, the time is correct and there is reason to believe that they are substantially true.

We long to get the exact details, but they have lost some of their reliability and many important particulars have been lost by having passed through several generations. We strive to learn more of the facts, but we
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inquire in vain because many traditions fail to give us minutely what we wish to learn. We search anxiously in books and old documents, but, alas! a large part of the history of the past was never written, and now it is gone far beyond our reach. We stand behind the curtain that divides the past from the present, and we wish that the curtain could be raised that we might rescue from oblivion the unwritten history of the trials, sufferings and murders of the early settlers of Berks, but the past is irrevocable, and our wishes cannot be gratified.

There are, however, fragments of the early history of our county extant which, when read in connection with the study of the relics, will give us the most accurate knowledge of the past that it is possible to obtain and will enable us to form some idea of the aborigines of Pennsylvania and the sanguinary conflicts between civilization and barbarity in Berks County.

In compiling the aboriginal history of Berks County it would be very incomplete without cuts and descriptions of the Indian relics still found abundantly in localities where the Indians had their villages. They are invaluable to the historian, because, in the absence of the written history of the Delawares, they are instruments by which we can conjecture with some certainty what were many of their habits of life and modes of warfare. I desire to call the attention of all persons of Berks County to the importance of collecting and preserving these relics. They are sometimes found, and broken or thrown into places where the eyes of man will never see them again, by men who do not value them as relics worthy of preservation. Let me entreat every person to pick up and preserve all specimens, and if he has no desire to preserve them from destruction let him give them to some enthusiastic collector in the county who will take good care of them. Agents have passed through the county and purchased lots of them for a mere pittance. These relics are disappearing rapidly, and unless we put a higher value upon them and preserve them for the future citizens of our county, these historical mementos of the aborigines of Berks County will pass into the hands of collectors outside of the county, and no money will be able to restore them.

A few years ago I became deeply interested in the study of the Indian relics of Berks County and immediately commenced to make a collection. I was surprised to find so great a variety and abundance of them. My enthusiasm increased as rapidly as my collection was augmented, until I deemed it a subject worthy of a description in which many persons would be interested. My first design was to give a mere description of the relics, but this would have covered only that part of the Indians most involved in mystery and would have failed to give what is really known of them and what might prove most interesting to many readers. The interest that I felt in the subject and a desire to awaken an enthusiasm in the minds of the young people to preserve the Indian relics and also the landmarks of
our forefathers, still in existence, induced me to undertake the task of writing the History of the Indians of Berks County, which, had it been written a generation or two ago, would contain interesting information of a local character that is not to be obtained now.

If I succeed even partly in the object I have in view I shall feel compensated for the time and labor expended in collecting the information and illustrating the work.

It may seem odd to see the early part of the history at the end of a book, but by going from the known to the unknown some of the surmises that may be made in describing the implements will be more plausible, and the real original life of the Lenni Lenape can be imagined with more certainty.
FROM No. 1 TO 78 HALF NATURAL SIZE.