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SOUVENIR
of the
NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS
as they were in the middle of the 19.th century,
a numerous and noble race of
HUMAN BEINGS
fast passing to extinction,
and leaving no monuments of their own behind them.

Having become fully convinced of the certain extinction of the North American native Races, I resolved at an early period of my life, to make & preserve for future ages, as far as my individual labours & personal means would enable me to do, a pictorial history of those interesting people; and with this view have, with great fatigue & expense, (and with the most complete success) visited 68. tribes, mostly speaking different languages. From amongst these tribes I have brought home a very extensive collection of portraits, and other paintings illustrating their modes of living & Customs, the portraits of which Collection are mostly contained in these volumes, reduced from the original paintings, & copied by my own hand, even to the smallest ornaments & trinkets; and in justice to those abused people, be it as imperishable as these designs, that amongst 2. millions of them where I have travelled, unprotected, they have uniformly treated me with hospitality & with kindness.

Geo. Catlin.
London, 1852. V. 57.