

REPORT.

does not seem necessary or advisable to publish it without first making an effort to have it rendered as complete and accurate as possible. I have accordingly made a fair copy of the MS., and inserted the English equivalents of the words, and suggest that a few copies of it be sent to persons in Oregon whose knowledge of the language may enable them to supply any defects. Let them be requested—

1st. To mark on the copy sent them any corrections that may suggest themselves in the spelling of the words. The orthography of the MS. has been followed as literally as possible; but the writer does not seem always to have caught the sounds correctly, to judge by his mode of transcribing certain English words adopted into the dialect,—at least his orthography does not represent them accurately to an English ear; moreover, his spelling is not always consistent with itself; and in a few instances the handwriting is obscure. In each instance where a better spelling suggests itself, the word should be rewritten on the right hand margin, observing to give to the vowels their Italian sounds.

2d. To correct any errors that may be noticed in the meanings given to the words. As in many instances the French word will admit of a variety of interpretations, the wrong English word may have occasionally been chosen.

3d. To note opposite each Indian word, when it can be done with certainty, the name of the tribe from whose language it is derived.

4th. To add any words not found in the vocabulary which may be in common use in the Jargon. It is necessary to observe this restriction; because, of course, by drawing on the sources from which it is formed, the list of words can be indefinitely increased without any corresponding utility.

Any further information that can be given respecting the language will be acceptable. Specimens of phrases or connected discourse with a close translation (a literal interlinear one is the best) would be welcome. As it can exist but for a short time longer, it is desirable that the opportunity should be seized at once, before it becomes utterly extinct, of describing this curious philological phenomenon as perfectly as may be.

It is possible that some one into whose hands this vocabulary may come may either know or be able to ascertain the name of its compiler. By communicating it he would enable the Institution to give credit where it is due.