

## THE COPTIC ELEMENT.

IN LANGUAGES OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN FAMILY.

BY THE REV. JOHN CAMPBELL, M.A., TORONTO.

*Read before the Canadian, Institute, February 10th, 1872.*

(Continued from page 303.)

While the title of this paper is "The Coptic element in Languages of the *Indo-European* Family," I may be permitted to indicate the presence of the same element in other families of language. Allusion has already been made to the claims of the African and Polynesian languages to relationship with the Aryan and Semitic tongues. After a survey of vocabularies of over two hundred different languages spoken in all parts of the world, it is only among these two groups and, to a very slight extent, among the monosyllabic tongues of eastern Asia, that I have so far been able to discover the presence of that initial *p* sound which I have identified with the Coptic article. One of the simplest examples is to be found among certain of the numerals of ten African languages, most of which belong to the West Coast.<sup>42</sup>

LANGUAGE.	TWO.	FOUR.	FIVE.
<i>Buntakoos of Guinea</i> .....	<i>noo</i> .....	<i>nah</i> .....	<i>taw</i> .
<i>Igberra on Niger River</i> .....	<i>ebba</i> .....	<i>euna</i> .....	<i>jokki</i> .
<i>Ratongga on Bagoon River</i> .....	<i>beba</i> .....	<i>binni</i> ..	<i>betta</i> .
<i>Bight of Benin</i> .....	<i>bi</i> .....	<i>nin</i> .....	<i>tang</i> .
<i>Efik of Calabar</i> .....	<i>iba</i> .....	<i>inang</i> .....	<i>itiun</i> .
<i>Otam on Cross River</i> .....	<i>beba</i> .....	<i>bini</i> .....	<i>bittan</i> .
<i>Mandinga</i> .....	<i>fula</i> .....	<i>nani</i> .....	<i>lulu</i> .
<i>Mozambique</i> .....	<i>pili</i> .....	<i>ssesse</i> .....	<i>thana</i> .
<i>Lagoa Bay</i> .....	<i>see-berry</i> ..	<i>nau</i> .....	<i>thanou</i> .
<i>Bongo on Gaboon River</i> .....	<i>baba</i> .....	<i>banai</i> .....	<i>batan</i> .

In the Ratongga, the Otam and the Bongo languages we find the African representatives of the *Æolic*, *Sabino* and *High German* of Europe. Among Asiatic tongues, in what is generally called the *Monosyllabic* area, the *Japanese* holds most strongly to the Coptic

<sup>42</sup> Bowring, *Decimal System*. London, 1854; p. 165-168.

*An Account of Timbuctoo and Housa*, &c., by El Hago Abd. Salam Shabeeny, with notes by J. G. Jackson, London, 1820: p. 373.

*Twenty-nine years in the West Indies*, &c., by Waddell. Appendix vi.

The words in italics in this and subsequent lists are abnormal forms that do not form part of the comparison.