

be strengthened by the fact stated by N. O., that perhaps the root "sit," foot, is the only one common to the neighboring Iroquois and Algonquin languages; unless, indeed, it should appear that these two languages have been derived the one from the east, the other from the west, and have met in Canada. To give force to these comparisons of roots, it would be necessary to show that they occur also in the Carib, or other languages of that region, and in the extinct Guanche of the Canaries, or in some of the ancient languages of Northern Africa or Southwestern Europe. At one time there was a strong tendency to get up fanciful resemblances between languages. The tide has turned, and the prejudices of scholars are all the other way. For this very reason we thank N. O. for his effort, and would encourage, in the interests of ethnology, all the honest cultivators of the comparative philology of even those primitive tongues, unjustly neglected as barbarous and uncultivated; though for that very reason, like the habits and rites of the people who speak them, they may, as Dr. Wilson has well shown, be of inestimable value in interpreting the primitive relations of men, and their condition in "pre-historic times."

MEETING OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

GEOGRAPHY AND ETHNOLOGY.

In this section, after some opening observations on the progress made between 1838 and 1863 in the vast centre of industry on the Tyne, the President remarked: "I will first call your attention to some of the leading geographical results in British Geography which have been brought about since we last met here. At that time four years had elapsed since (at our first meeting in Scotland) I directed the attention of this Association to the untoward condition of the Topographical Survey of the British Isles, by showing that no map of any country north of the Trent was in existence; in short, that all the North of England and the whole of Scotland were in that lamentable state; whilst the survey of France, and of nearly all the little states of Germany, had been completed. Having roused public sentiment to this neglected state of the national map,—so neglected, indeed, that one of the great headlands (Cape Wrath) was known to have been laid down some miles out of its proper place in all maps and charts,—deputations to the government followed, in the first of which I pleaded