

gether thirty-five centners. They can now be inspected by European geologists. The footprints are sunk into the stone to a depth of from eight to ten centimeters. The stone itself is a porous volcanic tufa, and the superincumbent layers, which had been removed for building purposes, were all of a more or less solid volcanic conglomerate. The footprints are very conspicuous, and seem to be those of three distinct persons, one of whom was a child. It is stated that in one of the overlaying strata impressions of leaves were very numerous and conspicuous. Unfortunately, no specimens of this have been forwarded to Vienna. But it may be safely said it would be rash to infer an extraordinary antiquity for those footprints from the fact that they have been covered over by several layers of stone to a considerable depth, which might have been deposited by a succession of volcanic eruptions.

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### THE MICMAC LANGUAGE.

The Micmac language, like that of other Indian tribes, is both agglutinate and polysynthetic. The former term denotes that there are syllables that have no meaning by themselves, or when separated from other syllables or words, but which are significant when thus united. The latter term denotes that the language abounds in compounds, in which each term is significant, whether combined or not with other words. In the preceding list I have given a specimen of what is expressed by the former term, which of course, embraces more particularly all the terminations that are merely grammatical variations, denoting gender, number, person, mood, and tense, &c. Every syllable united to the principal word, which means dog, has indeed a distinct meaning, but that meaning depends on its union with the principal word, for it is not a word, nor does it mean anything when used alone. The process might be extended, and it applies to every beast, and also to some extent to every bird, fish and reptile known to the Indians.

Every noun in the language becomes an adjective by adding a syllable to it. This syllable is either *a* or *awa*, according to the termination of the noun. Then every noun and adjective becomes a verb by the addition of a verbal termination, to denote gender, number, and person, &c. From these verbs, new nouns, adjectives,