

their territory, left their "hunting grounds and the graves of their forefathers," and sought a new home in the wilds of Canada in order to preserve their alliance with their Great Brother the King.

A portion settled upon the shores of the Bay of Quinté, where there are now about 700, while the remainder passed up to their present reservation at the Grand River, numbering at the present day about 2,500. So, again, in the war of 1812, these people gave good evidence at "Beaver Dam," "Lundy's Lane," and "Queenston Heights," that the spirit of their forefathers had not yet entirely died out. As illustrating the "ruling passion," strong even in the din and smoke of battle, the father of the writer, who took a leading part in all the engagements on the Niagara frontier, being present at the burning and sacking of Buffalo, selected from a rich, varied, and costly assortment, as his share of the plunder, *a key of rum!*

With this bare outline we shall now proceed with our subject proper.

Although all the traditions represent the Six Nations as originally separate and distinct tribes, there can be no doubt of their common origin when we come to examine the dialects.

The migration of a family away from the rest, and living in isolation, would, in time, give us the dialectic differences now existing among the languages spoken by the Six Nations. If this be true, we would naturally suppose that the greatest similarity would be found to exist between the languages spoken by tribes located contiguous to each other; and, on the contrary, the greatest dissimilarity between the languages of tribes that are most remote from each other. On reference to the geographical position of the tribes, we find that, according to this, the Mohawk and Oneida ought to be most alike. An examination will prove this fact, while the Tuscarora differs more from the Mohawk than any of the others; for the Chiefs of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, speak each in his own language in the Council House, and is readily understood by all; but the speech of a Tuscarora Chief usually has to be interpreted into one or other of the five dialects before it can be understood by the Council.

Our first inquiries must be directed, as a matter of course, to the alphabet of the leading language, viz., the Mohawk, and our attention will at once be arrested by a curious peculiarity in the entire absence of the labials which in English are so prominent.