

P R E F A C E .

In a work of this nature, it will not be expected that the author should swell the volume with remarks on the customs and manners of the Indian tribes: such observations, therefore, as are here made, are confined solely to the orthography of the Ojibway language. Already there are many useful and valuable works extant, which treat of the manners and customs of the North American Indians, yet few, which can be considered as school books, at least in the Ojibway dialect. The object in view in the publication of this small volume, is to aid the missionary and others in obtaining a knowledge of this extensively spoken language, and to place in the hands of the Indians an assistant to correct orthography.

The exertions making at the present day to christianize, and thereby to civilize, the Aborigines of this country, render it desirable that a system of orthography should be adopted by which the Scriptures, and other works of a religious nature, as well as of more general information, can be made intelligible to those people; and by which the missionaries and teachers may be effectually assisted in acquiring that knowledge of the language which is indispensably ne-