

PART I.
THE GRAMMAR.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE parts of speech, as in other languages, are nine—the article, noun, adjective, pronoun, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection, and lastly, the verb. The reason for placing the verb last on the list is, that it is so very complex and so very important; all the other parts of speech depend on it, and nearly all the other parts of speech are capable of being put into a verbal form. In forming a sentence also, it is the rule to employ a verb wherever possible: thus the English sentence, “He was here at our last meeting,” would be rendered in Ojebway, “He was there when we last met.”

The peculiarities of the language will present themselves as we proceed; but we may mention a few points in anticipation.

1. The Ojebway language divides all objects into two great classes, *animate* and *inanimate*, and this distinction is observed not only in the noun, but also in the article, adjective, pronoun, and verb.

2. *Three third persons* are distinguished and distinct endings employed to designate them. Thus, in the sentence, James sees John's mother; James is the first, John the second, mother the third person. The use of this rule is hereafter explained.

3. *Two first persons plural* are distinguished; *we*, excluding the party addressed, and *we* including the party.

4. The *participle* plays a very important part in the language, supplying the want of the relative pronoun, and answering for both noun and adjective.

5. The *objective case of the personal pronoun* is expressed by a change in the verb.