

des Provinces Maritimes empruntés aux Langues Sauvages (Quebec, 1906),* and by P. G. Roy's *Les Noms Géographiques de la Province de Québec* (Lévis, 1906). At its best this stage involves the collection of the earliest forms of the names, not only from printed works, as in the case of the above-mentioned books, but also from MS. records in land offices, etc., and it involves also the use of data obtained by interviewing the living Indians. My own earlier work upon the Place-nomenclature of New Brunswick, (published in these *Transactions*, II, 1896, ii, 175-289) belongs in this class.

III. THE INVESTIGATIONAL STAGE.—In this the strictly scientific method of induction is followed. All preferences, preconceptions, and prejudices are eliminated so far as can be done. All possible sources of information are searched and their relative values are carefully weighed. Particular importance is attached to data from original and disinterested sources, especially the earliest recorded forms of names, which are sought in such matter-of-fact places as ancient deeds, grants, etc. The psychological and etymological principles involved in name-giving and word-changing are taken into account. All available sources of information about the native language are made use of, especially all existent dictionaries, vocabularies, and grammars,—for the construction of the native language as well as its vocabulary is important. The testimony of the living Indians is sought, but with the understanding that this is subject to many errors, and that the trained white philologist, with his knowledge of the psychological and philological, as well as the etymological and geographical data, can reach conclusions far more likely to be correct than those of even the most intelligent Indian. The investigator also makes himself acquainted, personally and thoroughly, with the places in question, since the connection between Indian place-nomenclature and the natural characteristics of a place is usually very close. All of these data taken together constitute the evidence, which the investigator marshals and weighs, precisely as in any other scientific investigation or in any court of law (for the methods and aims of the two are substantially identical), deducing therefrom a verdict, which may be "proven," "probable," "possible," or "uncertain." This is the final stage in the study of the subject. It has not yet been applied in any part of Canada.

* Partly in the interest of historical accuracy, and partly for my own satisfaction, I wish to point out that a large proportion of the interpretations of New Brunswick place-names in Rouillard's work, although credited to Father Bourgeois (of St. Joseph's College, Memramcook) are identical with those in my earlier work (in these *Transactions*) on New Brunswick Place-nomenclature, and were evidently taken from that work, though without the customary acknowledgment, by Father Bourgeois.