

pendently as the name of a single species — the bilberry or huckleberry.

Other grammatical devices by which the deficiency of these languages in general names is compensated need not here be pointed out. That such a deficiency exists is indisputable, yet it has been often disregarded in the selection of words for comparison of different languages and dialects. No one has recognized more clearly than did Mr. Gallatin "the extreme precision of the Indian languages," and their poverty in "generic designations or words,"* but of the first twenty English words in his "Comparative Vocabulary of fifty-three tribes" (in *Trans. Am. Antiq. Society*, vol. i., pp. 307 and after,) fifteen are relative and general names not one of which can be accurately translated by a single word in any Indian language. Every Algonkin dialect has names for an "elder brother," a "younger brother," a "twin-brother," a "son of the same father," and a "son of the same mother," and has moreover two forms of some or all of these names, one used exclusively by men, the other by women. But in no dialect can there be found the precise equivalent of the English "brother," in its largest denotation. The nearest approximation to it is, perhaps, by a term which, in some languages, designates "one of the other sex, born of the same parents;" spoken by a woman, this word means "brother," — by a man, "sister."

The names by which *MAN* has been designated, by different tribes, or, more accurately, which most nearly correspond to the English appellative in its two meanings, "an individual of the human race" (*homo*), and "one possessing in a high degree the distinctive qualities of manhood" (*vir*), have occasioned much perplexity to vocabulary makers. Mr. Hale, in a note to his *Vocabularies of North America* (*Trans. Am. Ethnol. Society*, ii. 74), remarks that "in general, there was no means of ascertaining with precision the existence of this distinction." He has, however, nearly indicated its true character by the suggestion that, in vocabularies, the term "answering to *vir* will usually be found under *man* or *hus-*

* *Transactions of the Am. Ethnological Society*, vol. ii., p. cxxxii.