

similar to the Ochipwa language, is the Ottawa, the Pottowatomie, the Sioux: and the Delaware does not much differ. (Also, the six nations resemble each other in language. All these, in each class, must have been at one time the same.

The Ochipwa, and its various dialects, is very extensively spoken. Their language is very expressive, regular and harmonious. It, with the other Indian languages, is also highly figurative. Nevertheless, it contains a great many guttural sounds, which cannot well be expressed in English. The character of their language might perhaps suggest a hint that the Indians have formerly been a far more cultivated people, than the first civilized navigators found them.

The English language expresses the relation which one thing can bear to another by three cases, and by the aid of a few prepositions; the Latins and Greeks had five or six cases for the same purpose. But the Indian language is without prepositions; they express all these relations, howsoever numerous, by some modification of the original root, or by some prefix or affix attached to it. The same may be said of all the varieties of the verb in tense and mood. Some industrious individuals have already collected hundreds, and I have been informed others have collected thousands of different modifications of the verb. An active verb multiplies as often as there are things to act upon. The verb to eat, varies as many times as there are things to eat. The verb to see, varies according to the object of vision,—thus to see a man, and to see a stone, are two different verbs; to see any thing when in the plural, differs according to the persons who are included in the address. In English we say, “we see,” without variation. But in Ochipwa, they say *nawaubemen* when they include the person addressed; and when the person addressed is not included, they say *gewaubemen*.

To make use of a thing that belongs to him that uses it, or to him to whom we speak, are also two different verbs. I will give an example of a verb, in its different variations. It is taken from a little work by the