

SOUND OF LETTERS IN MICMAC.

THE consonants are sounded as in English: **g** is always hard, as in *go*, *egg*, and **c** exactly like **k**; **ch** as in *church*; **h** following a vowel in the same syllable (as in **āhk**) is a soft guttural, like the German *ch* in *Ich*. There is no *f* in Micmac; when attempting to pronounce French or English words which contain this letter, the Indians give it the sound of *b* or *p*.

The vowels are sounded thus: **a**, as in *father*; **ā**, as in *fate*; **ǎ**, as in *fat*; **â**, as the second *a* in *abaft*; **e**, as in *me*; **ě** as in *met*; **ei**, as *i* in *pine*; **i**, as *i* in *pin*; **o**, as in *no*; **ō** as in *not*; **u**, as in *tube*, *use*; **ū**, as in *tub*; **oo**, as in *fool*, *move*; **ōō** as in *good*, *wood*; **ow**, as in *now*. When any vowel is doubled, as **aa**, **āā**, **ee**, **ō**, the usual sound is prolonged, and takes the accent, but the place for the accent is the penult. **'M** or **'N** at the beginning of a word with the accent marked, is sounded without a vowel.

The following are examples of the peculiarity termed "holophrastic," where a single word stands for a sentence:—

Boon, the sitting place, the cross-piece on which the paddler sits.

Boóseněch, let us take a trip by water, let us go in a canoe.

Ėpkwōse, I have a shelter from the rain over my head.

Kamátk, bushes yonder, beyond a cleared place.

Něspe, to be stopping in the wigwam to take care of it, while the others are away.

Newōpskitk, the bed of the river is dry, and the rocks are bare.

Wōpk, the morning light, — "the opening of the eye of the morning."