

Alaska who cannot easily speak English, so long will it be useful and live; Hale prophesies for hundreds or even thousands of years; I cannot prove the contrary.

Letters.

The following letters are those which properly belong to the jargon as it was spoken forty years ago, namely, *a, b, c, d, e, g, h, i, k, l, m, n, o, p, s, t, u, y, z*. Of late years; since so many English words have crept into use, the Indians have learned to use nearly all the other English sounds, as *f, j, v*, and even occasionally *r*, the most difficult of all for the Indian to use, while *q* is *kw* and *x* is *ks*. Père St. Onge says that *kl* is not proper, not being used by the Indians, but rather *tl*. I shall not dispute him in regard to its use where he has lived, but on Puget sound it is one of the very common sounds, not only in the Chinook jargon but in the native languages.

Number of Words.

The number of words I have recorded in the Chinook-English part is 1,402; in addition to these there are 1,552 phrases which answer to single English words. I have rejected none that I have found in any dictionary or in use among the Indians. Gibbs in his excellent dictionary did reject a number, because he did not believe they properly belonged to the jargon, but were introduced by some persons for the sake of local convenience. But I have not done so; for as I think I know better than people at a distance what words are used in this region here and now, so I believe that Rev. S. Parker knew better than myself what ones were used about Fort Vancouver in 1835; that Hon. J. G. Swan knew better than I do what were used about Shoalwater bay in 1853; that Rev. S. P. Good knew what were used on Thompson's river ten years ago; that Père St. Onge knew better what were used in middle Washington when he lived there, although many of these words may not be used here or may be entirely obsolete.

The increase in the number of words now used and those formerly recorded may be seen from the fact that Gibbs gives