

maps, as indeed is to be expected from the fact that the application of the name on the maps long antedated this settlement. The postmaster adds, in answer to my further inquiry, that the word is locally said to be Indian, and to mean "tue le temps", that is, "Kill time." Needless to repeat, these local explanations of Indian names are wholly untrustworthy, for they arise and are repeated not in any investigational spirit but under the influence of the tendency of the human mind to select and perpetuate, from any suggestions offered, the one which is most striking or pleasing, quite without reference to whether it is true or not, a matter on which comment has already been made earlier in this series (*these Transactions*, V, 1912, ii, 179). I have sought in vain in our Maliseet-Penobscot-Abnaki vocabularies for any roots involving a meaning "kill time," to match up with POHENEGAMOOK, although, as in all such cases, one can manipulate fragments of roots into such a compound if he starts with that determination. Another correspondent obtained from an Indian the meaning "to put canoe down on lake after a portage," which is evidently based on the termination, with a guess at the remainder. Mr. Aaron Lawson, of Edmundston, obtained from a Madawaska Indian the meaning "leave snowshoes," his informant evidently connecting it with agumek, meaning snowshoes. Naturally, in view of the history of the word, the Indians cannot be expected to interpret it correctly. It is precisely as though we were asked to explain a name LONG PORTLAKE.

The evidence taken collectively, therefore, seems to leave no escape from the conclusion that the present name POHENEGAMOOK applied to this lake, originated in a series of minor clerical and psychological errors from PECHENEGANOOK, the Indian name of the St. Francis River which flows from it. Such an origin, though striking, is by no means unusual, for it is typical of a method which is common with place-names, beliefs, institutions and customs. An origin in accident, and fixation through prominent adventitious circumstances, is a sufficiently common basis of success in all phases of human affairs as it is in the evolution of all organic nature.

Cobscook.

LOCATION AND APPLICATION.—The name of a much-branched Bay in south-eastern Maine, connected closely, both geographically and historically, with Passamaquoddy Bay in New Brunswick. The name is pronounced locally precisely as spelled, with the accent on the first syllable.

HISTORY OF THE WORD.—It makes its first known appearance in the form COBSKOOK, in 1763, in the journal of an early settler, James Boyd, though as printed the word may have suffered editorial alteration (Kilby, *Eastport and Passamaquoddy*, 107). It next appears, in its present form, COBSCOOK, in 1764, in the Field book of the first survey of this region by John Mitchel (*Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society*, II, 1904, 182). It is COPS COOK in the journal of another early settler, Captain Owen, in 1770, (*Collections* above cited, I, 1897, 202), and the same upon the very fine survey map of this region by Wright of 1772, (*Ms. still unpublished, in the British Museum*), the original of the British charts which still follow his form. Thereafter the word appears in one form or the other, but most commonly as COPS COOK, and with occasional variants to COBBSCOOK, etc., well into the last century, when gradually the form COBSCOOK acquired an ascendancy which was made secure by its adoption on the United States Charts.

ANALYSIS OF THE WORD.—The Indians now living in the vicinity recognize the word as of their language, and give its form and meaning without hesitation. Thus, John Lola, a well-informed Passamaquoddy Indian, gave me KOPSKOOK, as applying to the falls on Denny's River. These falls occur at the mouth of Denny's River, or rather, they occur between the two narrow parallel-lying parts of Cobscook