

A reproduction of the Cree Syllabary would greatly help towards an intelligent comparison between the two systems. Since, owing to the lack of the proper types, we are denied this satisfaction, we will try to make up for it by pointing out the many advantages of the new over the old syllabics, and thereby we will bring into relief the features which distinguish one from the other.

Lest any one be tempted to accuse me of unduly depreciating Evans' invention, let it be understood at the outset that when I refer to it in the course of the following remarks, I shall have in mind less the Cree Syllabary itself than the Cree Syllabary strained to meet the requirements of the Déné languages. My contention is simply this: let Evans' system, susceptible of improvement as it may be, remain the Crees' mode of writing, and let the Déné tribes benefit by the Déné Syllabary, the only one which can render, with ease and precision, the many delicate sounds of their dialects.

This being stated by way of introduction, we will proceed to note some of the

Advantages of the Déné Syllabary.

I.—It must be admitted that, in a graphic system the phonetic value of whose characters depends on the turn or direction given them as component parts of a line, the first and most essential requisite is that said turn or direction be easily recognized.

Now, in the Déné Syllabary, the direction of the curve or angle of each sign infallibly determines the nature of the vowel added to the fundamental consonant of each syllable, and this direction is always perceived without the least effort of the mind. A glance at the preceeding page will bear me out in this assertion.

On the other hand, in the Cree syllabics such as quoted in Petitot's *Précis de Grammaire comparée**, this direction on which depends the vowel of the syllable is either difficult to discern

* *Precis de Grammaire comparee*, p. L.