

languages and dialects now so loosely grouped is to be established, if the genetic relation of one of these to another is to be demonstrated even in those cases where, on grounds independent of language, the probability of such relation is greatest—analysis must first do its work, until, at last, it shall have determined and classified the earlier traceable constituents of speech, though compelled to stop short of the discovery of ultimate roots.”¹ And if such words as these can be applied to the study and comparison of American stocks among themselves, which are regarded by some authorities as morphologically one, assuredly such a system of comparison will be doubly necessary when American stocks are compared with those of other parts of the world.

In the comparisons here instituted I have chosen purposely those words only of simple import such as are common to all languages the world over. The limitations imposed upon me in this short paper have made it necessary to restrict the number of words or radicals offered; but sufficient have been given to place the question of an Oceanic origin for the ancestors of the Salish and Kwakiutl-Nootka beyond all doubt. It will be observed that the compound forms are often purer than the independent forms which are frequently derived from a totally different root. It will also be seen that where the Kwakiutl-Nootka terms differ from the Salish, cognate or synonymous terms are usually employed, and I doubt not that if our vocabularies were more comprehensive and our knowledge of the languages greater we could find corresponding forms where they are now lacking.

The interchange of letters is very wide and seems almost to cover the whole alphabet though I do not despair of discovering later some law of permutation at the bottom of this seeming confusion. For the present I must say of our Columbian stocks what Tregear has said of the *extra-Polynesian*, “no attempt has yet been seriously made to arrange their multitudinous diversity.” There are certain well-marked interchanges as in the Oceanic groups, but these cover only a comparatively small number of the permutations which take place even within the dialects of the same stock. Before a comprehensive law can be formulated we must have full and complete vocabularies from all the divisions of all the stocks, and this at present we do not possess.

With regard to the authorities for the terms herein compared I am indebted for my Oceanic material to Wallace's list of Malayan terms as given in the 10th edition of his “*The Malay Archipelago*”; to Fornander's “*The Polynesian Race*,” and to Tregear's monumental work “*The Maori Comparative Dictionary*,” without which latter my task would have been well-nigh insuperable. For my British Columbian terms I have drawn from Dawson and Tolmie's *Comparative Vocabularies*; from the Reports of the B. A. A. S. on the Northwest Tribes of Canada; from Hall's

¹ *Vide* Essay by Mr. J. H. Trumbull, Trans. Am. Phil. Assoc. 1869-70.