

red man was created upon this continent; and, were I to weigh the evidence given by these traditions, and that derived from the various theories of scientific writers upon the subject, I should be inclined, after making all allowances for the legendary character of Indian history, to decide in favour of the evidence of tradition, for I am disposed to attach but little weight to theories formed upon supposed similarity in manners and customs, or accidental resemblance, in words, of the language. I do think, however, that there is every reason to hope that we shall find, if not a solution of our difficulty, at least great assistance, from the Science of Language.

I know that the traditions of the Mohawks assume a rational and reliable character, with the formation of the Confederacy of the Five Nations by the Mohawk Chief De-ka-na-wi-dah, yet the Tuscaroras are completely lost sight of in all the earlier traditions of the Five Nations, and are represented to have first met the Mohawks when they joined the Confederacy at a comparatively recent date. An examination, however, of the two languages, leaves no room to doubt that at some remote period these two nations were one.

Here, therefore, we have a case where we are enabled by a knowledge of, and an examination into, the languages, to pronounce judgment with absolute certainty upon a point which goes farther back than tradition. I should be placing a low estimate to say that the Confederacy is 500 years old. Philology, therefore, immediately solves a question for us which is from 600 to 1,000 years old. Leaving, however, the question of our origin for discussion till we are in a position to bring the Science of Language to bear upon it, we will proceed to give a hasty view of the Confederacy of which we have already made mention.

I have said that it was first conceived by De-ka-na-wi-dah, at a time when the nations which subsequently formed the League were living in separate and independent communities, continually engaged in hostilities with each other. The Chief, no sooner thoroughly satisfied that a Confederation of the neighbouring tribes would result in mutual benefit and prosperity, made proposals to the Oneida for an alliance, to which the latter fortunately acceded without hesitation.

They next proceeded to the Onondaga, who at that time was the most powerful of the neighbouring Chiefs. Having received the proposition of the Mohawk and Oneida to form an alliance in which