

there was bestowed upon him the power of naming, for he was more than a speaking machine, uttering words as a parrot. God treated him as an intelligent being, and endowed him with the faculty of language, and by His power aroused the faculty to act in accordance with the divine laws. The greatness of the task set before Adam in naming the animals may be seen in the fact that he had to give original names, whilst the method usually followed by colonists and settlers is to give secondary names, such as they select from their previous knowledge. The work of the first man as the primitive language-former was sufficient to tax his highest powers, and awaken and keep active his sense of association between the external world and articulate sounds. The Jesuit Larramendi makes Basque the common source of all languages, the Abbé d'Iharce de Bidassouet says that Escuara was the language in which the Eternal Father conversed with the first of the Jews, an eminent Celtic scholar suggests that Celtic was the primitive tongue, whilst others have shown the affinity of the Celtic with Hebrew, making the former the older language, and some of the American Indian tribes speak of their language as the perfect language. The first language, however, is unknown to us, and will very likely remain a mystery.

The origin of all languages from a complete and perfect primeval language having a fully developed grammar and dictionary as the gift of God, accords with the idea that language is too great an achievement for the human mind, but there is no necessity for assuming the existence of such a primitive tongue, man being endowed with the faculty of speech and a creative faculty of language-making from germs or roots, so that in accordance with the laws of language, he could develop a flexible form of speech, or by neglecting the laws, beget decay, or arrest a language in one of its stages. The origin of stocks of languages although a much disputed question seems to arise from the tribe or people which first spoke the mother tongue of each stock, having a common origin, and this tribe must have been isolated for a long time from other tribes sufficient to form a distinct grammar and vocabulary, and a peculiar mental and moral character. A language may become the mother of other languages, and these descendants preserve something in common by which philologists are able to trace them to the mother-tongue.

Languages are born, grow, decay and die like individuals, institutions, nations, races and religions. Just as the Hebrew has passed through three distinct phases, other tongues have developed and finally reached