

off in order that he might not have to carry a musket) and "craven"—went to show that when these words were introduced the country was governed by warlike and chivalrous feelings. Such words as these fixed periods or dates in a nation's history; for suppose some zealous bigot wrote a book and wanted to palm it on the world as an ancient authority on some contested point, no one would believe it if such a word as "telegram," or any of those of modern date, were found in that book. As science and the arts advanced, new words were needed to signify new articles, and language was always increasing. In degraded countries, words which once expressed virtues were so changed in their character by the vileness of the people that they came to be used to represent vice. From Egyptian words which occurred in the five books of Moses the fact was established beyond a doubt that Moses must have been considered the son of the king's daughter, because none but members of the Royal Family of Egypt were taught the use of the hieroglyphics of the priests. From the fact that Chaldean words occurred in many instances in the writings of Jewish scribes, it was proved that the Israelites had learned some of the language of their oppressors in the land of Chaldea. In strong language the lecturer denounced the words of flattery and falsehood, another use to which "Our Mother Tongue" was extensively applied; and he next went on to deplore the fact that a system of tyranny and oppression had led men to change the meaning of words so as to make those below them meaner still. Thus "knave," in its original sense, meant a boy; and "villain" a poor man—it might be a labourer or servant. Had not their meaning been perverted? A great many words now in use were only the remnants of ignorance. Thus "turkey" got its name from its being erroneously supposed to come from Turkey; and "gipsey," from its being supposed that that people came from Egypt; and "humour," from its being at one time imagined that the body was composed of four principal humours, and hence a man is said to be in a good or bad humour. The words "jovial," "sour," "saturnine," and "charming" were remains of the old science of Astrology, when it was supposed that a man's destiny was ruled by some particular star or planet. The lecturer deplored as the most injurious use to which "Our Mother Tongue" was ever put, the employment of slang. After speaking of the ennobling effect Christianity had on the language of any country, the lecturer alluded to the peculiar phraseology of the Bible, and said that the phraseology of the pulpit, if it was scriptural, and to be of any effect, must be peculiar too. The lecturer then went on to notice the Herculean tasks missionaries to foreign countries had to engage in ere their ministry could have any effect—when they had first to form an alphabet from the sounds that struck their ears, and from that alphabet form a language, and then, in the "mother tongue" of that people, preach Christ crucified. *There was a copy of the Scriptures in existence, written by the first Presbyterian missionary to the savage tribes of America, and the language of which no man now speaks.* The people for whom it was written had disappeared before the brandy and firewater of those who pretended to bring them civilization and Christianity. He then spoke for a few minutes of the fact that all languages, though they differ in many minor points, seemed to belong to one common head, which proved that at the dispersion of the builders of Babel their language was only confounded, that they did not get new languages, and that all would speak in one tongue again when the redeemed would congregate around the throne, and sing with one voice "glory and honour and power be unto the Lamb for ever and ever."