

pute as to the exact meaning of this term. Among the Canadian Abenakis it is explained as being derived from *wonhban* 'da-break or east' and *aki* 'land, country', but both the modern Abenakis and the Passamaquoddies use it also in the sense of 'a man from the east'. A precisely parallel usage is the modern Abenaki term *Nibenaki* which means both 'land of the south' and 'man from the south'. When we compare, however, the other gentilic forms of this dialect, we find that to apply a noun ending with the word-*aki-ki* 'country' to persons belonging to that country is not as a rule in accordance with the genius of the language. Thus, we find *Paston-ki*¹⁾ 'the United States' but *Pastoni* 'American'; *Molian* 'Montreal', but *Moliani* 'a Montrealer', etc. It appears from these and many similar forms that the true gentilic ending is *-i*. This apparent discrepancy has led Brinton, for example, to deny absolutely that *Wonhbanaki* can ever mean 'people of the east'²⁾. It is quite possible, however, that such terms as *Wonhbanaki*, *Nibenaki* when applied as *gentilicia* actually contain the gentilic *-i* contracted in the last syllable, e. g. that *Wonhbanaki* 'man from the east' should really be pronounced *Wonhbanaki-i*. It is interesting to note in this connexion that as early as the seventeenth century, Algonic Indians who came to Montreal retained the tradition that they had at one time owned territory toward the east, from which they had been driven by the Huron-Iroquois. Indeed, it is highly probable, both from the significant name Abenaki-*Wonhbanaki* and from the common traditions of all the Algonic tribes, that the origin of the parent nucleus of their race was somewhere on the eastern coast, possibly in the neighbourhood of Labrador.

The Abenaki Indians of Canada, with whom we are especially concerned, now number scarcely more than

¹⁾ *Paston* is the Indian form of Boston. It is used for all the United States Territory by Abenakis and Passamaquoddies.

²⁾ *The Lenape and their Legends*, p. 256.