

PREFACE.

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Says the celebrated Lexicographer JOHNSON: "He that undertakes to compile a Dictionary, undertakes that, which, if it comprehends the full extent of his design, he knows himself unable to perform. Yet his labors, though deficient, may be useful; and with the hope of this inferior praise he must incite his activity, and solace his weariness."

A true saying! PROBATUM EST! If anybody experienced the truth of it, I did.

What Johnson says here, is true even in regard to Dictionaries of *civilized* languages; but by far more so in regard to a Dictionary of an *Indian* language, and the FIRST ONE of such a language.

This is, to the best of my knowledge, the first Dictionary of the Otchipwe language ever published. The compilation of it has cost me several years of assiduous labor; and still I must acknowledge that it is yet very defective and imperfect. I consider it as next to impossible to make such a work perfect at once, in the first edition.

In order to understand this Dictionary and make a practical use of it, the OTCHIPWE GRAMMAR ought to be first studied, especially the *Formation of Substantives* and the *Formation of Verbs*; because you will find in this Dictionary only some of the *formed* substantives and verbs, as examples after which you may form others yourself, according to the Rules explained in the Grammar.