

though, unfortunately not always to others who might wish to compare them with their illustrations.

The ascertainment of the conceptions or origin of the several signs, embodying as they do, many sociologic, mythologic, and other ethnographic ideas, is of special importance. When those obtained through collaborators are printed in the VOCABULARY before the authority, they are to be understood to have been gathered from an Indian as being his own conception. When printed after the authority and within quotation marks, they are in the words of the collaborator as offered by himself. When printed after the authority and without quotation marks, they are suggested at this Bureau. All should be equally criticised and supplemented, and any error in printing the authority for the conceptions corrected. It has sometimes been impossible to decide whether the correspondent intended to give them as his own or as from an Indian. The importance of an Indian's conception is so much greater than any other that the fact should be made clear.

The margins will also allow of additions to all contributions, whether from intervening independent research or as suggested by any part of the material collected. This work being on the co-operative principle, it is not supposed that jealousies or questions of precedence will arise, and each contributor will be credited with the amount of capital advanced for the common stock. It is highly desirable that the signs as described by each should be compared by him with those of others, and notes of coincidence or discrepancy made. Perhaps, in some instances, the signs as described by one of the other contributors may be recognized as intended for the same sign for the same idea or object as that of the correspondent, and the former may prove to be the better description. The personal habitude of some individual in any tribe, and still more frequently the usage or "fashion" of different tribes, may, by a peculiar abbreviation or fanciful flourish, have induced a differentiation in description with no real distinction either in conception or essential formation. All collaborators will therefore be candid in admitting, should such cases occur, that their own descriptions are mere unessential variants from others printed, otherwise adhere to their own and explain the true distinction. When the descriptions show substantial identity, they will in the final publication be united, with a combined reference to all the authorities giving them, as they are in some cases of those taken at Washington in the present VOCABULARY.

It will probably be also noticed that a sign described will have the same actually substantive formation as some other in the VOCABULARY which is stated to be with a signification so markedly distinguished as to be insusceptible of classification as a synonym. It will then be important for each contributor of the rival signs to refresh his memory as to accuracy of description or significance, or both, and to announce his decision. No error is necessarily involved. It will be very remarkable if precisely the same sign does not prove to be used by different persons or bodies of people with wholly distinct significations, the graphic forms for objects and ideas being much more likely to be coincident than sound is for similar expressions, yet in all oral languages the same precise sound is used for utterly diverse meanings. The first conception of many objects must be the same. It has been found, indeed, that the homophony of words and the homomorphy of ideographic pictures is noticeable in opposite significations, the conceptions arising from the opposition itself. The differentiation in portraiture or accent is a subsequent and remedial step taken only after the confusion has been