

English;¹ and in South America, both Humboldt and D'Orbigny express their surprise at the same fact, which they repeatedly observed.²

But the most tangible evidence of both their linguistic and literary ability is the work some of these natives have accomplished in European tongues. It does not come within the limits of my plan to enter fully into an examination of this branch of literature; but it is worth while mentioning some of the more prominent native writers, who have composed in European languages, as their productions are an easy test of what the faculties of the red race are in this direction.

As the colonizers of the New World have been chiefly from Spain and Great Britain, so naturally the English and Spanish languages have been brought most widely to the knowledge of the natives. The half-civilized tribes, within the area of the United States, have produced several authors of merit. Perhaps the earliest of these was David Cusick, who, in 1825, printed his *Ancient History of the Six Nations*. He was a full blood Tuscarora, and his English is far from correct. Yet the arrangement of his matter is skillful, and some passages quaintly vivid and forcible. Another member of the Iroquois confederacy, Peter Dooyentate Clarke, has taken up the *Origin and Traditional History of the Wyandotts*, and has made a readable little book (published at Toronto, 1870); while still more lately, Chief Elias Johnson, of the Tuscaroras, has published a *History of the Six Nations*, very creditably composed. (Lockport, 1881.)

The tribes of Algonkin lineage can also count some respectable writers. The Rev. William Apess (or Apes), a member

¹ *The Tribes of California*, p. 73. (Washington, 1877.)

² "Il n'est pas rare de trouver des individus parlant jusqu'à trois ou quatre langues, aussi distinctes entr'elles que le français et l'allemand."—Alcide D'Orbigny, *L'Homme Américain*, Tome I, p. 170. The generality of this fact in South America was noted by Humboldt, *Voyage aux Régions Tropicales*, T. III, p. 308.