

they say it," the 'they' being the Micmacs living in the central portion of *Megamagee*, in the neighborhood of Shubenacadie (*segubun-âkade*) and Stewiacke (*siktâwêak*), Nova Scotia. Continual travel, and frequent councils of the whole tribe, which involved long visits at headquarters, kept the language from branching off into separate dialects, though the five local variations were quite marked. In the south at Yarmouth the 'a' was flatted in many words and often when occurring as initial to a word was preceded by a submerged 'y' sound, more accurately represented by the Spanish 'j' than the Greek aspirate. Take the word *alasoodumai* 'as they say it,' which was sounded almost *Yâlasoodumî* at Yarmouth and *âlasoodumai* at Restigouche in the north, while in Cape Breton it received its briefer *alasoodmâi*, and in Prince Edward Island, conformed to the standard.

Except for the explosive 'ikw' or aspirated 'k' there are no sounds which are not familiar to English and French students, and a number of our elementary sounds were never heard in original Micmac: these missing consonants were 'f,' 'v,' 'z,' 'th,' 'sh,' and 'ng.' Some of these have since been adopted into the language, but it is unfair to consider them Micmac, even in words borrowed long ago from the French. In most of the borrowed words euphonic changes were made which completely obscure the original, except to those familiar with the laws of language.

The guttural 'g' is always hard, and often displaced by 'k,' there are those who maintain that one letter represents accurately both sounds, but the sharper 'k' is often found in simple nouns and adjectives, while the flatter 'g' is heard distinctly in related verbs and compound-nouns; *tc* as given in Powell's alphabet, and adopted by the Smithsonian Institution represents the sound *tch* found in the English words 'church' and 'much,' and as there is no 'c' in this Dictionary the use of *tc* cannot be misinterpreted. Dr. Rand used three characters at different times in his life to represent the sound, sometimes introducing an apostrophe to mark the contraction from *uk'tc*, (great). Rev. F. Pacifique represents the sound by *tj*, giving the French sound to *j*, and for the contraction writes *gtj* without an apostrophe. In the face of considerable urging to the contrary, it has been thought best to keep to the *tc* as used by the Smithsonian Institution.