

people in general, and I hope to be able to show how a wrong spelling may alter a word completely from its original form, and how an incorrect proper name may be repeated and taken as an historical truth after a considerable space of time, especially when the language in which the error originally occurred is not properly understood. By way of beginning, I beg to state that there is a place on the "Ottawa" river called by the Indian, *Mahdahwaun*, while our white friends persist in pronouncing the name, *Matawan*. *Mississippi* is the Indian name of a large river in America. An Indian of my tribe would not have the slightest idea of the original form of this word, although the reader has seen a part of it in the beginning of this article. Our way of writing this name is, *Mashizebe*; it is compounded of *Missi*, which in composition words corresponds to *Michah*, and signifies very great, enormous. The rest of the name speaks for itself, *sebe*, a river.

I shall close this paper by citing another example, and in doing so, will have to criticise the "*Canadian Journal*" itself. In a paper "read before the Canadian Institute on February 14, 1857," the following passages occur,—speaking of Champlain's voyages,—"He ascended the Ottawa beyond the limit of his first journey, till he branched off into the chain of lakes, which led him to the Lake of the Epicerini, or Nebicerini, as later writers call them, an Algonquin Tribe, who were long celebrated for their power as sorcerers, and whose name we still preserve in that of Lake Nipissing." From the above it would appear that "Nipissing" is derived from "Nebicerini"; with all due deference to the learned author, I submit that the very reverse is the case, and that "Nebicerini" is derived from "Nipissing" as much as the name of "Torontonians" is taken from "Toronto." In the first place the spelling in both cases is wrong; Nipissing should be written with b not p, thus *Nibissing*, from the Odahwah word *Nibis*, a small lake. That lake is called Nibissing by way of distinction, being about the largest of the lesser lakes in these parts; in the same way *Mississippi* is applied to the largest river to distinguish it from others. It follows then that the correct form of Nebicerini is *Nibissiwine*. The term we apply to any one who resides at Nipissing and the country round about is "*Nibissing-dakshi-ahnine*," i. e., a man belonging to Nibissing; and *Nibissi-ahnine*, and *Nibissinine*, plural, *Nibissinine-wug*, inhabitants at Nibissing, which I presume "Nebicerini" was meant to represent. The termination *ng* denotes generally *in, at, so* that *Nibissing* signifies *at the little lake*.