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THE MODERN DIALECT OF THE CANADIAN ABENAKIS

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The existing representatives of the Algonquin or Algie race may be separated linguistically into three divisions, i. e. the Blackfeet of the extreme west whose idiom differs most greatly from all the other dialects <sup>1)</sup>; the Cree-Ojibwe of the middle west which embraces a number of closely allied linguistic variations <sup>2)</sup>, and the Abenaki races of the eastern coast, one of whose languages it is the purpose of the present paper to discuss. It should be noted that the Algie languages like all American idioms are polysynthetic.

This name *Abenaki* 'land of the dawn or east' is the common native appellation of the Algie tribes of Lower Canada and Maine, as well as of the Delaware or Lenápians <sup>3)</sup> who were once the dominant people from the Hudson to the Potomac. Thus, the Abenakis of Canada and the Penobscots of Maine call themselves and their kindred *Wonhbanaki* <sup>4)</sup> (*Abenaki* is merely a French corruption); while we find the forms *Wabanaki* among the Passamaquoddy-Maliseets of Maine and New Brunswick and the widely spread Micmac tribe of eastern Canada, and *Wapanakhki* among the Delawares. There has been some dis-

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<sup>1)</sup> Cf. J. W. TINS, *Grammar and Dictionary of the Blackfoot Language*, London, 1889.

<sup>2)</sup> Cf. HORDEN, *Grammar of the Cree Language*, London, 1881; WILSON, *The Ojebwoy Language*, Toronto, 1874.

<sup>3)</sup> Cf. BRINTON, *The Lenápi and their Legends*, Philadelphia, 1885; *A Lenápi-English Dictionary*, Philadelphia, 1888.

<sup>4)</sup> For the pronouns, see below.