

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following treatise was designed to form part of a larger volume of linguistics, the work of several contributors. The publication of that work having been deferred, it is thought advisable, in view of the scientific interest of the subject of this treatise, and its practical usefulness to residents and visitors of the Pacific States and Provinces of North America, to publish it in a separate form. Comprising, as will be seen, a complete grammar and dictionary, with specimens of colloquial and narrative phrases, songs, hymns, a sermon, etc., it is intended to afford a manual for the use of travellers and settlers in the region where it is spoken, as well as an opportunity for philologists to study the construction of a genuine "international speech," now current, with the best results, among populations in various stages of civilization, speaking more than twenty distinct languages, and diffused over a territory nearly half as large as Europe.