

The Herald.

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND AMENDED SPELLING.

S U P L E M E N T (MAY 1905)

AMERINDIAN NAMES.

Aboriginal names are apt to remain to mark physiographic features in districts settled by nations calling themselves civilized, though Pizarro (Pizarro) and Cortes destroyed a civilization better than that they brought in.

Uniformity in spelling such names is a desideratum. Most of them came to us through Spanish, but chiefly French, explorers and missionaries. These recorders followed the analogies of the language they wrote. Some of these names have been copied only, with little or no allowance for notation; a few were transliterated questionably to different systems or no-system. Result, confusion. Aiming at uniformity, conflicting statements and usages are to be considered. We do not attempt this, but call attention to its necessity as did Max Müller :

It is hoped that the study of native American languages may before long receive that attention which it so fully deserves. It must be taken up in good earnest, and with all the accuracy we are accustomed to in comparative study of Indo-European languages. All ethnologic questions must for the present be kept in abeyance till the linguistic witness can be brought into court, and it would be extraordinary if the laurels that can here be gained should fail to stimulate the ambition of some young scholar in America.—Last Essays, 1st Ser., p. 164.

Now this call is most urgent because old workers like Trumbull (1821-97), Dorsey, Powell, H. Hale, and Brinton are all dead. They who think loosely and illogically (or not "in good earnest, with all accuracy") are begged not to begin—over-supplied now.

Abroad is a popular sentiment favoring retention of aboriginal names for landmarks. It has found this voice :

"Ye say, they all have past away,
That noble race and brave;
That vanished at their light canoes
From off the crested wave;
That mid the valleys where they roamed
Their rings no hunter's shout:
But on your waters read THEIR names,
Ye THEM may NOT wash out.

"Ye say, their cone-like cabins light
That clustered o'er the vale
Have fled away like withered leaves
Before the autumn gale;
But on your hills their memory lives,
Their baptism on your shore,
Your everlasting rivers speak
Their dialect of yore."

Of the flotsam and jetsam passing THE

HERALD recently there may be mentioned Trumbull's *Natick Dictionary*¹ [nə'tɪk] which in its Introduction (by the venerable Edward Everett Hale) has this to say :

In 1899 I placed before a Chipawa [i. e. Ojibwa] boy in the Hampton (Va) school thirty words of Massachusetts Indian. He recognized fifteen at once, giving their full meaning; with little study he made out most of the remainder. In two and a half centuries words differ as much among Indians as among white men, but not more.—Page x.

In other words, the language of Eliot's (1605-90) bible, spoken by King Philip's dusky followers, is today a living, wide-spread tongue, interwoven with ours in many a word. But the Bureau of Ethnology, a part of the Smithsonian Institution, now begins publishing Indian vocabularies in extension of its previous work in aboriginal linguistics. Bishop Baraga's (baraga) *Ojibwa* dictionary put out eighty years ago (2nd edition, 2 vols, Montreal, 1879-80) is out of print, and rare and dear second-hand. It is with thankfulness we pick up an *Ojibway Dictionary*² though loosely got up: under *hug* it says "see embrace;" under *embrace*, "see hug;" so, of *avoid* and *shun*; under *carver* it says "see sculptor," but *sculptor* is not found; the same with *scar* and *cauterize*. Glad of help from any source, the promised 2d part (Ojib.-Eng.) is awaited. Meantime *St. Matthew*³ is an addition to reading matter in Ojibway. *The American Nation, a History*, edited by Dr Hart, coming out in 28 vols, devotes its 2d vol,⁴ to an admirable *résumé* of Amerindian questions, with an excellent critical essay on authorities. *The History of North America*, 20 vols, edited by Dr Lee, published by Barrie & Sons, of Philadelphia, devotes two volumes to these

¹ NATICK DICTIONARY by James Hammond Trumbull, Bulletin 25 Bureau of American Ethnology, xxviii + 347 pages 4to, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1903.

² A DICTIONARY of the Ojibway and English Languages in Two Parts. Part I—Eng.-Ojibway. Published by the International Colportage Mission, 202 King st. east, Toronto, and 17 Eagle st., Rochester, N. Y. Paper, 115 pages 24mo. 50 cents.

³ THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW. English and Ojibway in Parallel Versions, with a short Historical Sketch of English Scripture Translations. Paper, 128 pages 12mo. Ibid., 15 cts.

⁴ BASIS OF AMERICAN HISTORY, 1500 to 1900, by L. Farrand, A.M., M.D., prof. of Anthropology, Columbia Univ., with maps, 303 pages 8vo, Harpers.