

PREFACE TO THE CHINOOK JARGON AND
THOMPSON VOCABULARY.

The Chinook Jargon, or Indian trade language of British Columbia, as its name implies, is no proper national tongue, but an ingeniously constructed compilation from a variety of sources, by means of which communication might be held with all the aboriginal races, irrespective of their own tongue. It depends upon the accent given to many of its words and phrases for the meaning the speaker would convey—*e. g.*, “siyah” would be “some distance,” whereas “si-yâh” would mean “a very long way off indeed.” So again, other words used as prefixes give an intensitive sense to the expression. Thus “kloosh” is “good,” and “klat-a-wah,” is to go, whereas “kloosh klat-a-wah” would convey the idea “to make off as quickly as possible.”

The present edition is written phonetically, and may readily be acquired by all consulting its pages, and the mode of pronunciation is such as prevails in this Province. Where the same word is given in the Chinook as in English, it is to be understood that the English term has come into general use by all our Indians.