

missionaries using the native languages, and native teachers acquainted with English, so that the necessary philological material actually exists, and only the labour of writing it down is required to preserve it from destruction. A general effort, if now made, would save the record of several dialects on the point of disappearance. It is suggested by the Committee that inquiry should be made for lists of words &c. hitherto unpublished; that the terms and phrases possessed by interpreters should be taken down; that sentences and narratives should be copied with the utmost care as to pronunciation and accent, and translated word by word.

Particular attention is asked to two points in the examination of these languages. Care is required to separate from the general mass of words such as have a direct natural origin, such as interjections expressing emotion, and words imitating natural sounds, as, for instance, the names of birds and beasts, derived from their notes or cries. It is desirable in such words to notice how close the spoken word comes to the sound imitated, for resemblances which are obvious from the lips of the native speaker are apt to be less recognisable when reduced to writing. It is also of interest to notice the significance of names of places and persons, which often contain interesting traces of the past history of families and tribes.

An ethnographic map, based on language, and showing as nearly as possible the precise areas occupied by the various tribes speaking distinct idioms, is a desideratum, and, if properly completed, will be an acquisition of the greatest value. Several partial maps have been published, mostly of the region west of the Rocky Mountains. Among these may be specially mentioned two maps by Mr. W. H. Dall, given in the first volume of the 'Contributions to North American Ethnology,' published by the United States Government—one of which relates to the tribes of Alaska and the adjoining region, and the other to the tribes of Washington Territory and the country immediately north of it. These are connected through British Columbia by the excellent map which accompanies the Comparative Vocabularies of Drs. Tolmie and Dawson. A small map, by Dr. Franz Boas, in 'Science' for March 25, 1887, with the accompanying report, adds some useful particulars concerning the coast tribes of that province. With the additions which different observers can supply for the various portions of the country, a complete tribal and language map of the whole Dominion might soon be constructed. In forming such a map, it is desirable that the various linguistic 'stocks,' or families of languages, completely distinct in grammar and vocabulary, should be distinguished by different colours. East of the mountains the number of these stocks is small, but west of them it is remarkably large. Besides showing the distinct stocks, the map should also show the several allied languages which compose each stock. Thus, of the widespread Algonkin family, there are in the territories west of Lake Superior at least three languages, the Ojibway, the Cree, and the Blackfoot, all materially differing from one another. If, in the proposed map, the Algonkin portion should be coloured yellow, the subdivisions in which these separate languages are spoken might be marked off by boundary lines (perhaps *dotted lines*) of another colour, say blue or red. It would be proper to give the areas occupied by the different tribes as they stood before the displacements caused by the whites. Following the example set by Gallatin in his Synopsis, it will be well to select

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