

How then shall we account for such orthographical interchange and diversity? I answer, because in the Ojibway there exist no such consonant sounds as those represented by b, d, g, j, k, p, s, t, z, zh, sh, and ch; but six consonant sounds being a union or combination of the English consonants b and p; d and t; g and k; z and s. their aspirates zh and sh; and j and ch. The commencement of the Ojibway consonants being in every instance a guttural or murmuring sound in the throat; exactly that which precedes the English g, b, d, z, and j, and ending with that formation of the organs under which our k, p, t, s, and ch are pronounced.*

Many instances of interchange might be here adduced, were it necessary, from perhaps every writer who has written in the Ojibway language; but the limits of this work will not allow their insertion. As a proof of the correctness of the foregoing remarks on j and ch, let an Ojibway, altogether unacquainted with the English, be requested to pronounce the word cheese, and a nice ear will at once discover that he varies in his pronunciation from that of an English speaker in two respects: he commences with a guttural which in English precedes j, and he gives a hissing sound to the s, which takes in

* See Holder's Elements of Speech, and Walker's dictionary, on these letters.