

no pains to become acquainted with any of them. But, as the harbour of Nootka was at that time the headquarters or chief emporium of the trade, it was necessarily the case that some words of the dialect there spoken became known to the traders, and that the Indians, on the other hand, were made familiar with a few English words. These, with the assistance of signs, were sufficient for the slight intercourse that was then maintained. Afterwards the traders began to frequent the Columbia River, and naturally attempted to communicate with the natives there by means of the words which they had found intelligible at Nootka. The Chinooks, who are quick in catching sounds, soon acquired these words, both Nootka and English, and we find that they were in use among them as early as the visit of Lewis and Clark, in 1804.

But when, at a later period, the white traders of Astor's expeditions, and from other quarters, made permanent establishments in Oregon, it was soon found that the scanty list of nouns, verbs, and adjectives then in use was not sufficient for the more constant and general intercourse which began to take place. A real language, complete in all its parts, however limited in extent, was required; and it was formed by drawing upon the Chinook for such words as were requisite, in order to add to the skeleton of which they already possessed the sinews and tendons, the connecting ligaments, as it were, of a speech. These consisted of the numerals (the ten digits and the word for hundred), twelve pronouns (*I, thou, he, we, ye, they, this, other, all, both, who, what*), and about twenty adverbs and prepositions (such as—*now, then, formerly, soon, across, ashore, off-shore, inland, above, below, to, with, &c.*). Having appropriated these and a few other words of the same tongue, the Trade Language—or, as it now began to be styled, “the jargon”—assumed a regular shape, and became of great service as a means of general intercourse.

But the new idiom received additions from other sources. The Canadian *voyageurs*, as they are called, who enlisted in the service of the American and British fur companies, were brought more closely in contact with the Indians than any others of the foreigners. They did not merely trade, they travelled, hunted, ate, and, in short, lived with them on terms of familiarity. The consequence was that several words of the French language were added to the slender stock of the jargon. These were only terms such as did not previously belong to it, including the names of various articles of food and clothing in use among the Canadians (bread, flour, overcoat, hat), some implements and articles of furniture (axe, pipe, mill, table, box), several of the parts of the body (head, mouth, tongue, teeth, neck, hand, foot), and, characteristically enough, the verbs to run, sing, and dance. A single conjunction or connective particle, *puis*, corrupted to *pe* and used with the various meanings of *then, besides, and, or*, and the like, was also derived from this source.

Eight or ten terms were made by what grammarians term onomatopœia,—that is, were formed by a rude attempt to imitate sound, and are therefore