

tain a considerable proportion of Aztec words, and that in them, as in the Nahuatl of Nicaragua, the Aztec *tl* disappears or is converted into *t*, *d*, *k*, *s*, *r* or *l*. Here therefore it is claimed by others is an argument for the northern derivation of the Mexicans.

If we carry forward the work of comparison, having regard to certain laws of phonetic change, we shall find, as I profess to have done, that the vocabulary, and to a large extent the grammar, of the Aztecs are those of all the greater families in point of culture and warlike character of the Northern and Southern Continents. Nor do the Aztec and its related American languages form a family by themselves. They have their counterparts, as I have indicated, in many regions of the Old World. If my classification of these languages be just, there should, among a thousand other subjects of interest, be found some explanation of the great peculiarity of Aztec speech to which I have referred.

The Aztec combination *tl* appears, although to no very great extent, in the Koriak, Tchuktchi, and Kamtchatdale dialects. It has no place in Corean, Japanese, or Aino, and only isolated instances of its use are found in the Yukahirian and Yeniseian languages. Of the four Caucasian tongues which pertain to the Khitan family, two, the Georgian, and Mizjeji, are almost as destitute of such a sound as the Corean and Japanese; while the Circassian and Lesghian vocabularies, by their frequent employment of *tl*, reproduce in great measure the characteristic feature of the Nahuatl. It is altogether wanting in the Basque, and is a combination foreign to the genius of that language. Yet there is no simpler task in comparative philology than to show the radical unity of the Basque and Lesghian forms of speech. Such a comparison, as well as one of the Lesghian dialects among themselves and with the other Caucasian languages, will enable us to decide whether the *tl* of the Lesghian and Circassian forms part of an original phonetic system, or is an expedient, naturally adopted by speakers whose relaxed vocal organs made some other sound difficult or impossible, to stave off the process of phonetic decay by substituting for such sound the nearest equivalent of which they were capable.

In order first of all to exhibit the common origin of the Basque and the Lesghian, I submit the following comparison of forms, the relations of which are apparent to the most casual observer. The Lesghian vocabulary is that of Klaproth, contained in his *Asia Poly-*