

Moreover, in connection with none of its signs is there any provision for such all important vowel sounds as those of *æ* (*e* in French *je, te*) and *u* (English *oo, Fr. ou*). Yet in Carrier *rhæ* means darkness and *rhe*, load; *thœs* is a kind of blunt tipped arrow and *thes* is said of a bed; *tæ* corresponds to the English "with himself" and *te* is synonymous of crane, etc. In some dialects, *æ* characterizes the present tense and *e* the past, while the distinction between *o* and *u* is almost as essential.

VIII.—Lastly, we claim for the Déné Syllabary a greater synthesis which renders writing shorter and, by avoiding the accumulation of non-syllabic signs, makes reading easier. For instance, the Chippewyan word *in'tan-tearhe*, leaf, which, with the syllabics used east of the Rockies, cannot be written without *three* consecutive small signs ( $\Delta \backslash \text{C} \backslash \text{E} \backslash \text{Z}$ ), is with us simply  $\triangleright \Delta \text{C} \text{E} \triangleright$ .

In conclusion, I may be permitted to state as illustrative of the practical worth of our system that, through it, Indians of common intelligence have learned how to read in the space of two days.

And no wonder, since with us to call out the different signs is to read. The difficulties consequent on spelling are entirely done away with, and to possess nine or ten signs is almost paramount to knowing the whole syllabary.

The reader will perhaps be curious to see a specimen of our writing. Here is the Lord's Prayer in Carrier, with a transliteration in type of the same size as the Indian characters.

*The Lord's Prayer in Carrier.*

ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ, ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ. ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ  
Nepa ya'kœz sînta œn, sûtco nyûzi tôlthî, n'kœnnhwo'ten hô-  
ᑕᑕ, ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ.  
lé, ya'kœz ho'kwoht'se yœn'kœt tea nyeni 'kœnnent'siyu'en.

ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ, ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ  
Tzîn thotœk nellæssœ'te antit tzîn neranîn'aih, in'kêz nt'sorh  
ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ, ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ  
thœ la ut'sœt'sœhwoj'aine pœpa 'œnt'sothœ[ti], hwœzœn'a nyœn