

Lesghian *hueta* and the Basque *zuaitz*. The Yukahiri has conformed to the Lesghian *dzul* in *tehal*; and the Georgian, with its *che*, *tka*, and *tcheka*, more nearly approaches the Yuma and other American forms. Still *tlel*, *djitsha* and *zeli* are thoroughly Khitan in character, answering to the Circassian *zla*, the Basque *zuhatsa*, and the Lesghian *dzul* and Yukahiri *tehal*. Such examples suffice to show how difficult it must be to gain a thorough acquaintance with the structure of our American languages, without having reference to the stock from which they are derived, as well as the paramount value of these languages in all matters affecting the construction of the Basque and Caucasian, the Siberian and Japanese tongues.

Whether the Aztec *tl* was an original element in Hittite speech, or a corruption arising after the dispersion in 717 B.C., we shall not know definitely until the inscriptions of Syria and Asia Minor, of India, Siberia, and Japan, yield a vocabulary of sufficient extent to enable us to judge. It is very probable that it existed as a substitute for *r* in certain Khitan tribes from a very early period, since, in the land of the Nairi, the Assyrian inscriptions mention a town Citlalli, in which we recognize the Aztec word for star, the equivalents for which in Araucanian, Atacameno, Shoshonese, Aino, Lesghian and Basque are *schalela*, *halar*, *shul*, *xirari*, *suri*, and *izarra*. The land of the Nairi or Nahri, the *Naharina* of the Egyptian records, has been generally regarded as a form of the Semitic *Naharaim*, the rivers, whence the designation Mesopotamia. But the word is purely Turanian, and designates primarily a people, not a country. The Egyptian form is the most perfect, as it preserves the medial aspirate and retains the Hittite plural in *n*. It is just the Aztec national designation *Nahuatl*, *Nauatl*, or *Nuval*, which, by the application of the law of phonetic change, becomes *Nahuar*, *Nauar* or *Navar*. The Aztec word means "that which is well-sounding, or a fluent speaker," but most of the words derived from the same root have either the meaning of *law* or *measure* or of *interpretation*. The fluent speaker probably was looked upon as one who spoke with regard to the laws of language and in measured tones, and the interpreter as one who converted the idiom of barbarians into the well-regulated language of the Aztecs. The Japanese preserve the word in two forms, *nori*, meaning law or measure, and *naori*, translation. In Basque it is represented by *neurri*, measure, and this in all probability is the same word as Navarre, a Basque province. As Khupuscai and the