

be said; I regard it as the most important memoir on our aboriginal Indian languages which has appeared since the Dakota grammar and dictionary, by Rev. S. R. Riggs, was published by the Smithsonian Institution.

It was originally intended to publish this treatise as a portion of a general work on Indian ethnography now in course of preparation by the undersigned. The delay in its appearance which such course would entail, and the great merit of the work here accomplished, render it desirable, in justice both to the author and to the subject, that it should appear as a separate publication.

As circumstances rendered it impossible for the author to attend personally to the work during its passage through the press, the duty of superintending its publication devolved upon Dr. Elliott Coues, U. S. A., to whom the thanks of the Survey are due for the careful manner in which he has accomplished the task.

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