

and thus ennobled natural forces or objects which are especially cherished. For this reason, some Algic specialists have called the two classes *noble* and *ignoble*, but as the division is undoubtedly based on belief in the presence or absence of life in the object spoken of, I retain the more logical terms. Grammatical gender is absolutely unknown in the Algic dialects. When it is necessary to differentiate between a male and female animal, this is done by prefixing or suffixing some determinative word. Thus, in Abn. *p'ziko aionhba* is 'bull-buffalo', but *p'ziko al'tha* is 'cow-buffalo'. The feminine of human beings is usually made by suffixing some form of the word for woman, e. g. *kinjames* 'king', but *kinjames-iskwa* 'queen'¹).

Turning to the Abn. substantival inflexion, we see that the ending of the an. pl. of nouns is *-k* and for the inan. *-l*, both of which may be preceded by the vowels *a*, *o*, and *i* according to the ending of the nouns. Those ending in *b*, *j*, *l*, *n*, *p*, *s*, or *z* usually take the pl. in *-ak*, *-al*; cf. *als-ak* 'shell', but *wakonhlikw-il* 'wheel', while those in *m*, *n*, *kw*, and *gw* are inclined to *-ok*, *-ol*; cf. *p'hanem-ok* 'woman', *mēnahan-ol* 'island', *wanibagw-ol* 'leaf'. This is not invariable in the case of final *-m* or *-n*, however, as we find *aptes-akwam-ak* 'apple-tree' and also *skamon-al* 'grain'. Those in *-ak*, *-ag* (*-k*, *-g*) generally take *-ik*, *il*; cf. *wizawonhqamak-il* 'strait' and *askilameg-il* 'cucumber'. These endings *ik*, *il* are essentially those of the participles which have a *-d*, *-t* termination. These consonants usually palatalize in *j*: e g. *nottahasid*, but pl. *nottahasijik* 'miller'. Other nouns ending in *-t* are apt to take the *-ak*, *-al* termination, as *wējat-al* 'nerves'. Nouns ending in a vowel add simply *-k*, *-l* as *soga-k* 'lobster' *sata-l* 'blueberry', but these terminating in *-o* or *-i* take *-ak*, *-al* almost invariably, e. g. *msazesso-ak* 'white spruce' *anaskemezi-ak* 'oak' and

¹) The word *Kinjames* is merely a corruption of 'King James', the first king with whom the Abenakis had prolonged relations.