

the Indian voice, but without attempting to class the vowels, or even to furnish us with a synopsis of the powers of the letters; and therefore we are left to guess at the pronunciation of words, from the circumstance that the vowels are, as in English, capable of representing a variety of sounds.

Another difficulty, not less than that arising from the diversity of sounds represented by the same vowel, presents itself in the use of the English consonants; and one to which the vocabularies and translations of every writer in the Ojibway language, as well as several other Indian languages, bear ample testimony. The letters *b* and *p*; *g* and *k*; *d* and *t*; *z* and *s*; their aspirates *zh* and *sh*; and *j* and *ch*, are continually interchanged, not only by different writers in different vocabularies and translations, but by the same author in the same work; and not unfrequently is the same word differently represented within the short space of a page, or a few lines; and that too, when it could not be attributed to an incorrect pronunciation on the part of the writer; for while this has frequently occurred in the works of those who, without a knowledge of the language, have written from the lips of others, the natives themselves, who fully understood the English power of these consonants, have, alike with others, made these interchanges.