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ALGONKIN ONOMATOLOGY, WITH SOME COMPARISONS WITH BASQUE. Bv ALEX. F. CHAMBERLAIN, Toronto, Ont.

[ABSTRACT.]

The subject of comparative onomatology is of importance as an evidence of the mental acquirements of the races of people compared. It is closely related to history and folk-lore, as both these sciences are called into play in the interpretation of names (here taken in the widest sense). Comparative onomatology, as far as regards our Indian languages, is almost an unexplored field. There are several groups which afford an inviting harvest, such as the Siouan, Iroquoian, Algonkin, with their numerous dialects. It is with Algonkin, however, that the writer of this paper intends to deal, turning to the Basque at times for useful illustrations and comparisons. The subject may be divided under several heads, viz.: (1) Names of inanimate objects of nature, earth, sea, sky, sun, moon, stars; as moon, in Cree, tipiskâwipisim, in Ojebway tibigisiss= night sun: Basque illargi (moon)=light of death. (2) Names of animals, birds, insects, fish, etc.: gopher, in Cree, potatchikasew, in Ojebway, potatchipingwasi = the thing that blows up loose earth; crawfish, in Cree, asakew, in Ojebway, ashagashi = the thing that moves backward; whitefish, attikamek (Cree), atikameg (Ojebway)=the caribou-fish (the caribou of the waters); swan, in Cree, wâpisiw, Ojebway wabisi = the white (bird); in Basque, saguzara (bat)=old mouse; weasel, angereder pretty maid; dory (fish), arraingorri = red fish. (3) Names of trees, plants, fruits, etc. : sassafras, menagwakomis (Mississagua)=scented tree; oak, in Cree, maskwâttik= hard wood; a sort of willow, mahiganattik (Cree)=wolf's wood; cranberry, maskekomin (Cree), mashkigemin (Ojebway)=muskegamin (Mississagua)=marsh-fruit; strawberry, otchemin (Cree), otémin (Mississagua) odéimin (Ojebway)=heart-fruit; in-Basque, oak, aritz=the hard (stony) wood ; quince ira-sagar, ira-apple ; osier, zume=thin, small tree. (4) Names of implements, instruments, etc. Bead, manitominis (Mississagua)=mystery-seed; chisel, eshkon (Mississagua)=horn; needle, in Cree sabonigan, Ojebway shabonigon=that which pierces; in Basque, sling, uballarri=stonethong; axe, aizkora, connected with aitz=stone. (5) Names of seasons. months, etc. : January, in Cree, kisipisim=the great month, in Ojebway, manito-gisis = spirit-moon; May, in Cree, niski-pisim = month of the outarde, in Ojebway, wabigoni-gisis=moon of flowers; compare in Basque: urtarrilla (January)=month of waters, or perhaps month of the year = principal month (?), ostoilla, ostaro (May)=month of leaves, time of foliage. (6) Names of members of the human body, etc. : thumb, in Cree, misitchichân, Ojebway, mitchitchinindj=great finger, in Basque, beatzlodi,

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