

ably of Hittite origin in the Old World and in the New. In the remainder of this paper, I propose chiefly to set forth the relations of the Aztec language, by means of which I transliterated the Hittite inscriptions, with the Caucasian tongues, which of all Khitan forms of speech are in closest geographical propinquity to the ancient habitat of the Hittite nation. Before doing so I may set forth the principal members of the Khitan family at the present day.

THE KHITAN FAMILY.

1. OLD WORLD DIVISION.

Basque.

Caucasian = Georgian, Lesghian, Circassian, Mizjeji.

Siberian = Yeniseian, Yukahirian, Koriak, Tchuktchi, Kamtchadale.

Japanese = Japanese, LooChoo, Aino, Corean.

2. AMERICAN DIVISION.

Dacotali.

Huron-Iroquois including Cherokee.

Choctaw-Muskogee including Natchez.

Pawnee including Ricaree and Caddo.

Paduca = Shoshonese, Comanche, Ute, &c.

Yuma = Yuma, Cuchan, Maricopa.

Pueblos = Zuni, Tequa, &c.

Sonora = Opata, Cora, Tarahumara, &c.

Aztec including Niquirian.

Lenca = Guajiquiro, Opatore, Intibuca.

Chibcha or Muysca.

Peruvian = Quichua, Aymara, Cayubaba, Sapibocono, Atacameno, &c.

Chileno = Araucanian, Patagonian, Fuegian, &c.

The Nahuatl, or language of the Aztecs, as distinguished from other tribes of diverse speech inhabiting Mexico, has long been a subject of no little difficulty to philologists. It is not that its grammatical construction is peculiar, but because its vocabulary exhibits combinations of letters or sounds that have come to be regarded as its almost peculiar property. The most important of these is the sound represented by *tl*, whether it be initial, medial or final. The Aztecs of Nicaragua drop the *tl* altogether or reduce it to *t*; hence some writers have supposed theirs to be the true form of the language, and the literary tongue of Mexico a corruption. Upon this an argument has been founded for the southern origin of the Nahua race. But, as Dr. Buschmann and others have shewn, a mere casual survey of the languages of more northern peoples, the Sonora and Pueblo tribes, and the great Paduca family, reveals the fact that they con-