

more from the Mohawk than any of the others. For the Chiefs of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senacas speak each in his own language in the Council House and are readily understood by all. But the speech of a Tuscarora Chief usually has to be interpreted into one or other of the five dialects before it can be understood by the Council.

Our first inquiries must be directed, as a matter of course, to the alphabet of the leading language, viz: the Mohawk, and attention will at once be arrested by a curious peculiarity, in the entire absence of the labials which, in English, are so prominent.

I ought, perhaps, here to explain that the name Mohawk was given to us by foreigners, and that the signification or derivation is entirely unknown to us. Some writers, I believe, have conjectured it to mean *man eaters*; but if it is implied by this that the Mohawks were Cannibals, I have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be a libel.

The name by which we are known among Indians is, perhaps, not quite so euphonious, but much more complimentary. It is *Ka-nyen-ke-hú-ka* which means "Flint People" or "people derived from the flint," given no doubt by those who had experienced something of the flinty character and the scalping propensities of the Mohawk upon the war-path. The following comprises all the letters of the alphabet, viz :

Vowels.

a	as	a	in	far.	Vowels followed by h have a short quick ex-
e	"	a	"	fate.	plosive sound, <i>e g.</i> , <i>eh</i> as <i>e</i> in <i>met</i> ; <i>ih</i> as <i>i</i> in
i	"	e	"	meet.	pin.
o	"	o	"	old.	E followed by n has the sound of <i>u</i> in
u	"	u	"	tune.	under.

Consonants.

d h j k n q r s t w x y.

It will thus be seen that b c f g l m p v z are wanting, leaving 17 letters in the alphabet.

Writers who have gone before me have, as a general thing, retained c and q, but I conceive uselessly, as I think where those former writers would employ these letters, j and k could be used quite as correctly.

It will be my object, not so much to exhibit the language in some particular form, or according to certain preconceived grammatical notions, as to examine and analyze the language, and afterwards de-