

as appears in the name itself of a Déné tribe, the Nah'ane, are rendered by the sign //.

VI.—Again, have the would-be adapters of Evans' syllabary never noticed that, in several of their additions to the original system, they have altogether lost sight of the fact that the latter is *syllabic* and not alphabetic? Have they never remarked that three of their sets of signs represent merely separate *letters*, just as in the European alphabets?

What do they give us for the syllables *ha, he, hi, ho*? Simply //◁, //▽, //△, //▷, which is the exact equivalent of the letters *h+a, h+e, etc.* The same is true of *Xa, Xe, Xi, etc.* which are rendered by *X+a, X+e, etc.* or ◁, ▽, etc.

The set of signs for *wa, we, wi, wo*, which is open to the same critique, is further notable for a curious anomaly according to which the consonant *w* is placed therein *after*, instead of before, each vowel. Thus for *wa* the Eastern Déné is made to read *aw* or ◁'; for *we, ew* or ▽', etc.

So that we are gratified with a sort of a hybrid system, which is syllabic and yet non-syllabic, which at times furnishes the reader with whole syllables expressed by a single character, and at times forces him to spell out several letters to one syllabic sound as in English!

VII.—The Déné Syllabary is complete, while it is universally conceded that, even in its amended state, the Cree Alphabet lacks several sets of signs which are indispensable in such delicate languages as the Déné. Here is how Fr. Petitot himself appreciates it:

"This alphabet, which suffices perfectly to express the 20 letters of the Algonquin language, is far from answering to the exigencies of the Déné-Dindjié idiom, which counts, as we have already seen, 71 phonetic sounds. Therefore its adaptation to that language is not very appropriate, since it cannot render all its sounds"*.

Those who know the numberless and most ridiculous *contresens* this poverty leads to, need no other reason to reject the whole system as practically worthless.

* Ubi supra.