

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-ha-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 when 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, explosive
E " a " fate.	sound, e.g. Eh as e in met.
I " e " meet.	Ih " i " pin.
O " o " old.	E followed by n has the sound of u in under.
U " u " tune.	

CONSONANTS.

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

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

Writers who have gone before me have, as a general thing, retained c and g, but I conceive uselessly, as I think where 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 deduce rules founded upon such analysis. With most of the works upon the subject that I have been able to examine, I have found this difficulty, that instead of truly exhibiting the language as it exists, it has been distorted and made to assume new forms to suit the purposes of the author.

In order to indicate the connection between the language of the Mohawks with the other dialects of the Six Nations, I have prepared a comparative table of the numerals, and of a few common words, from which it will be seen that the Mohawk and Oneida are the most alike, while the Tuscarora is most unlike the rest.