

cessary to promote their usefulness in the field of their labour.

All who have attempted to represent the Indian dialects by written characters, have proved the impracticability of accomplishing this object by the use of the Roman character, while it retains its English sound; and almost every writer has a method of notation peculiar to himself, while none have presented us with a complete system, in which each sound is rendered invariable, by a distinct and appropriate character.

This want of an efficient system has presented us with a strange medley in orthography. Many have written without any knowledge of the language, having hastily collected from the lips of Indian speakers vocabularies of words, designing merely to represent those words, sufficiently distinct, to enable those who might feel interested to trace the similarity existing among the various languages or dialects of the Indian tribes of this continent; and in such representations have selected Roman characters, which, however well assured the writer might be that they did not convey the exact sounds of the voice, were, in his estimation, such as would answer the object in view.

Others have, with greater care, selected from the English alphabet those letters which are the most analagous in sound to the modulations of