

ALGONQUIAN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE—REPORT
BY THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

It seems proper that at this meeting a short account should be given, however elementary, of the important steps forward in the study of the Algonquian language, a study to which this Society has so largely contributed since its formation.

The Committee of Publication were able to announce at the last meeting the completion of the printing of Trumbull's dictionary. We owe the publication of this important book to the cordial care of the United States Bureau of Ethnology. The late Major Powell, the accomplished head of that bureau, promised on its behalf to undertake the editing and printing of Trumbull's dictionary. He assigned the care of the work to our accomplished associate, Mr. Albert S. Gatschet. That gentleman fulfilled his duty with the most assiduous skill, and before Major Powell's lamented death, he had the pleasure of seeing most of the book in the proof-sheets. As the Committee has already reported, the printing was completed before our last meeting and its distribution among students has since been made. Mr. Trumbull's own manuscripts, carefully rebound, have been returned by the bureau to the Society Library.

This publication marks an era in the study of the Indian languages. The volume is the first, as may be hoped, in a series of bulletins contemplated by the act of the 27th of April, 1900. While we recognize the importance of the publications of the bureau in several years past, it will probably be fair to say that no work of equal importance to this has been printed since this Society published Mr. Gallatin's studies on the Indian languages nearly seventy years ago. At that time, men of the ability of Duponceau

and Pickering on this side the water, and the great German philologists of the last century, had discovered and recognized the importance of John Eliot's contributions to the study of language. There was a fashion perhaps, among ignorant people, of saying that his great translation of the Bible was a book of no use to mankind. But everybody who knew anything about it, was obliged to say that in his study of the tongue of our poor Natick Indians, he had unlocked the secrets of that extraordinary system of grammar which extends from the Arctic Ocean to Cape Horn. Of that grammar and of a sufficient number of the vocabularies of our tribes between the Atlantic and the Pacific, Mr. Gallatin had made a very comprehensive examination. Our Society had the honor of publishing his results. In his long career as Secretary of the Treasury, in days when secretaries had very little treasure, Mr. Gallatin availed himself of his official relations with the Indian tribes to collect a vast quantity of crude material. That material is arranged in the second volume of our transactions with comprehensive vocabularies, quite sufficient for scientific purposes.

It would seem that our publication of Mr. Gallatin's book first called attention to the great extent of the Algonquian Lenape language in Canada and the United States. It is possible that the insular position of the Iroquois—in New York—with a language which has not one word in common with the Algonquian spoken east, south and north of them had given the impression that our New England language had a limited range. But Gallatin at once recognized the similarity, not to say identity, of the languages of the northwest with those of Virginia, Pennsylvania and New England. The Algonquian language ranged so far to the southward that, as the Society will remember, our associate Judge Forbes reminded us that Manteo, one of Raleigh's Indians from Roanoke Island, could have talked with Capt. Smith's Powhatan and Edward Wins-

low's Massasoit, and probably did. Side by side with the work of Mayhew and the younger Cotton in New England, the Pennsylvania missionaries were studying the language of the Delawares. And, thanks to the work of Eliot and his helpers and to the work of Heckewelder and others to the south, the printed literature of the great Algonquian race is now much more full than that of any other Indian family.

The invaluable bibliography which Mr. Pilling has made for the Bureau of Ethnology, contains sixty pages of titles of printed books relating to it, and makes a volume of six hundred pages. And to that series the Trumbull dictionary now makes the most important addition.

The extent of a language which is still a living language—spoken by more than a hundred thousand people,—and the intelligent scholarship which has for two centuries been devoted to it, have led, in the last winter to a step forward of the greatest value, which your Committee are glad to announce. At the suggestion and advice of Dr. William Henry Holmes, the successor of Major Powell as Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology, Mr. William Jones—now connected with the great American Museum of Natural History of the City of New York—has been appointed by the Trustees of the Carnegie Institution to the duty of specially studying the Algonquian nations and their languages. Mr. Jones has been known as a devoted student in the line to which Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Pilling and Mr. Gatschet have done such honors. The Trustees of the Carnegie Fund, a few weeks since, appointed him with a commission which will enable him to visit the tribes in their homes, and to study their language, still living, in its living purity. So important an addition to our knowledge of the original language of Massachusetts is most gratifying to this Society.

Respectfully submitted,
for the Committee of Publication,

EDWARD E. HALE.

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