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NEW VINE

OF THE

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OF THE

TRIBES AND NATIONS

OF

AMERICA.

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means the *Blowers*, or Blowing People, “for Potaween is Delaware, and signifieth to blow.” Potawacan in this language signifies a bellows.*

Page xxxiii. “The Miamis, or Miamies.” This is their own or national name. They are called by the Delawares, Twichtwe, or Twichtwees.

“The Messifaugers, or Messifagues.” The language of these Indians is, undoubtedly, very nearly allied to that of the Chippewas, Naticks, and others at the head of my larger lists. But it contains words in the languages of some of the southern tribes also.

Page xxxvi. Pampticoughs. Mr. Heckewelder conjectures that the Pampticoughs are the Indians who are now called Nantikoks, or Nanticoks †. I am not inclined to favour this opinion. As I have not, in the preceding pages, taken any notice of the Nanticoks, I shall say something concerning them in this place. They are a southern tribe. There can be no doubt that they are the *Nantaquak* mentioned by Captain John Smith ‡. He places them, in the year 1608, on the eastern side of the Chesapeak-Bay. In the year 1748, ten canoes of these Indians came up the river Susquehanna, from Maryland §. They settled at Shenengo or Schenenk, on the Susquehanna. About the year 1784, they moved, by invitation, in a body to the westward, and settled up the river Miami. One family of these Indians resides with the Christian or Moravian Indians in Upper-Canada. A few families are settled in the state of New-York.

* M. S. *penes me.*

† M. S. *penes me.* ‡ The General Historie of Virginia, &c. p. 57

§ Reverend Mr. Pyrlaue.

The Nanticoks are one of the darkest of all the North-American tribes. They have "this singular custom, says Loskiel, that about three, four, or more months after the funeral they open the grave, take out the bones, clean and dry them, wrap them up in new linen, and inter them again. A feast is provided for the occasion, consisting of the best they can afford."

I have not been able to obtain any satisfactory information concerning the language of the Nanticoks. I have, indeed, been informed by an Indian of the Wunaumeeh tribe, that there are some words common to the Nanticock and Delaware languages. He particularly mentioned the words, Beeh, water, and Keeeshooh, the sun. The resemblance, however, between these languages cannot be very great; for Mr. Heckewelder, who is well acquainted with the dialects of the Lenni-Lennape, could not observe any affinity between these dialects and the Nanticock; and Mr. David Zeisberger, who understands the dialects of the six nations, could find no resemblance between these and the Nanticok. The following specimen of the language of these Indians (the only one on which I can place dependence) was formed by the reverend Mr. Pyrlæus, a German missionary, many years ago. It was kindly communicated to me by my friend Mr. Heckewelder.

Killi, One, *Willo*, Two, *Sábo*, Three, *Náno*, Four, *Túro*, Five, *Wéro*, Six, *Wéngó*, Seven, *Sécki*, Eight, *Cóllengo*, Nine, *Tà*, Ten.

I have carefully compared these numerals with those of the Pampticoughs †, without discovering any affinity between them; nor have I been able to discover any affinity between them, and the numerals of the Chilese, the Mexicans, Darien-Indians, Cheerake, Muskolige, Chikkasah, Choktan,

* Part I. p. 121.

† In Lawson.

Woccons, Mohawks, Onondagos, Naudowessies, Monsees, and other tribes. I find, however, a striking affinity between some of these numerals of the Nanticoks and the numerals of certain Asiatic tribes. Thus, the Tchuvashi call eight, *Sákar*: the Assyrians, *Seh'is*: the Tartars, *Segeers*, *Sekees*: the Teleoutj, *Segis*: the Kirghistzi, *Seckes*: not to mention others. The Persians call Ten, *Da, Dek*: the Curdi, *Da, Tga*.

Page xxxvii. "The Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagos, Cayugas, and Oneidas." Lawson calls the Senecas, *Sinnagars*. In some of the printed accounts, they are called the *Sinickers*. In the French accounts of our country, they are better known by the name of *Isennétoans*. The Mohawks are sometimes called *Gagniequez*, or *Agniez*. The Oneidas, sometimes called *Onneiouts*,* denominate themselves *O-nei-yo-ta-an-can*, or "the people of the perpendicular stone," from a stone which they have long held in high veneration†. The history of the Oneidas commences with their establishment at the west-end of the Oneida-Lake, in the state of New-York, not far from the present residence of the tribe. But, I think I can trace them in Virginia, prior to this settlement, in the reign of queen Elizabeth. The Canestogas, who were settled in Virginia about the time I allude to, were certainly nearly allied to the Oneidas. The Onondagos, whom Hennepin calls *Onnontaguez*, or the "*Mountaineers*," are also sometimes called *Onontagers*. Their name is, undoubtedly, taken from the word *Onontes*, which, in their language, signifies a mountain; because the country which they inhabited was more mountainous than that of the other tribes. Indeed, there were no mountains to be seen in any part of the extensive territories of the confederacy except in that which was occupied by the Onondagos. The Cayugas lived to the west of the Onon-

* Hennepin.

† Judge Dean.