

are occasionally discovered. The Indians once made their own earthenware vessels, but that is now a lost art amongst them. The writer once examined an ancient grave where a man, woman and child had been buried, and found among the bones various articles of interest, among which was a piece of a pot:- a fine specimen of the art referred to. And along the shore of the lake where we spent about 20 years many small pieces were picked up.

The Crees have retained a pure language. The Swampies have a much inferior dialect; though they are far ahead in many things. It would seem a pity if the rising generation in learning English should forget their Mother tongue, for the pure Cree is in the writer's estimation a classical language. The construction of it is beautiful. But strange to say, the uneducated Indian though speaking grammatically has no intelligent knowledge of grammar. Until Missionaries came amongst them the language was not reduced to writing, but to write and print with English letters is laborious work, owing to the length of the words especially the verbs, and these enter largely into the construction of the language. In this manner the Indians can express themselves with marvelous precision. The Cree verb is capable of practically unlimited changes (even it has been said), to the formation of thousands of words from one. The difficulty of using English letters soon made it necessary to find other characters, and a Methodist Missionary named Mr. Evans at Norway House invented the Syllabic system which has been such a boon to the natives. There is a story told that this indefatigable Missionary used tea chest lead in making the original type. I have it on good authority too, that another Missionary named Mr. Barnley, the first at Moose Fort Hudson Bay, made a leaden plate, and cut out the Lord's prayer in syllabics and printed some copies, having made the printing press himself. In the syllabic system, every character is a syllable, except the finals and the vowel points. A most interesting and instructive lecture on the "Grammatical construction of the Cree language" was delivered at Court House, Fort Garry, in 1862, by the Venerable Archdeacon Hunter. It is