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WALTER CLAYTON CLAPP

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BUREAU OF SCIENCE DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

VOL. V-PART III

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VOCABULARY

OF

THE IGOROT LANGUAGE AS SPOKEN BY THE BONTOK IGOROTS

BY THE

REV. WALTER CLAYTON CLAPP

IGOROT-ENGLISH AND ENGLISH-IGOROT



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PART III A VOCABULARY OF THE IGOROT LANGUAGE AS SPOKEN BY THE BONTOK IGOROTS

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PREFACE

This vocabulary of the Bontok Igorot dialect is an expansion of one of which about thirty mimeographed copies were issued and circulated by the author of the present work in July, 1904. The former vocabulary, giving the Igorot equivalents of about 1,800 English words, was compiled between June 12, 1903, when I took up my permanent residence in Bontok, and the date on which it was issued. Previously, between December, 1902, and June, 1903, Dr. A. E. Jenks, afterwards the head of the Ethnological Survey of the Philippine Islands, had gathered a list of Igorot words, numbering about 666, exclusive of numerals, classified according to subjects, and printed in his interesting volume, "The Bontok Igorot," issued under the authority of the Insular Government, and appearing in the autumn of 1904. Of these words about five-sixths are found to be included in this present vocabulary, although not always with the same meanings attached. I learn also that Dr. Seidenadel, instructor in the University of Chicago, has used to such good advantage the knowledge gained by intercourse with various Igorots who have been taken to the United States for exhibition purposes, that he has a volume ready for press, embracing a grammar, various translations, and

The foregoing are the first serious attempts to record and describe the Igorot language. So far as there is any record, it seems to be a fact that no white man has hitherto arrived at an intimate knowledge of the Bontok dialect, although of course many may have learned a smattering of words. One can only wonder at this tardiness in approaching the task of doing for these people what would tend to dignify their language and foster their self-respect, and what has already been done for many of the other Malayan tribes of the Islands.

While, for an unwritten language, the Bontok dialect is an astonishingly good and regular one, we are met on the threshold of the task of describing it by two special difficulties, namely, first, that, as in the case of many Malayan tongues, the vowels are so obscure and variable as to be particularly elusive to the Western ear. I believe that some of the Malayan dialects have presented this difficulty so formidably as to discourage altogether the attempt to represent some of the vowel sounds. Certainly in my work of writing Bontok Igorot I have been in constant doubt. Two persons, listening to the same speaker, could hardly agree