

**AN INTERNATIONAL IDIOM.  
A MANUAL OF THE OREGON  
TRADE LANGUAGE, OR,  
"CHINOOK JARGON"**

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An International Idiom. A Manual of the Oregon Trade Language, Or, "Chinook Jargon" by  
Horatio Hale

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**HORATIO HALE**

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OREGON TRADE LANGUAGE,

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*AN INTERNATIONAL IDIOM.*

A MANUAL OF THE

OREGON TRADE LANGUAGE,

OR

"CHINOOK JARGON."

*Emmons*  
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## PREFATORY NOTE.

THE following treatise was designed to form part of a larger volume of linguistics, the work of several contributors. The publication of that work having been deferred, it is thought advisable, in view of the scientific interest of the subject of this treatise, and its practical usefulness to residents and visitors of the Pacific States and Provinces of North America, to publish it in a separate form. Comprising, as will be seen, a complete grammar and dictionary, with specimens of colloquial and narrative phrases, songs, hymns, a sermon, etc., it is intended to afford a manual for the use of travellers and settlers in the region where it is spoken, as well as an opportunity for philologists to study the construction of a genuine "international speech," now current, with the best results, among populations in various stages of civilization, speaking more than twenty distinct languages, and diffused over a territory nearly half as large as Europe.

*Extract from the "Introduction to the Study of the Human Races;" by A. de Quatrefages. Part II., p. 603. (Paris, 1889.)*

"The formation of these new languages deserves to attract the attention of linguists; and it will be fortunate if the example given by Mr. Hale should arouse their interest on this point. That eminent anthropologist has found in Oregon and north of that country a sort of *lingua franca*, which, born at first of the necessities of commerce, is to-day employed almost solely by many individuals. This idiom has already its vocabulary, its rules, its grammar. The elements composing it are borrowed from four languages—two American (Nootka and Chinook) and two European (French and English). A certain number of words have been formed by onomatopoeia; and the language admits the formation of compound words to supply the deficiencies of its vocabulary."

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