

two wires, and preventing the current striking across from one to the other. A wire, buried in the earth, would be protected, in most cases, from the effect of a direct discharge; but the inductive influence would still be exerted, though perhaps in a less degree.

The wires of the telegraph are too small and too few in number to affect, as some have supposed, the electrical condition of the atmosphere, by equalizing the quantity of the fluid in different places, and thus producing a less changeable state of the weather. The feeble currents of electricity which must be constantly passing along the wires of a long line, may, however, with proper study, be the means of discovering many interesting facts relative to the electrical state of the air over different regions.

A communication was read from Prof. Locke, of Cincinnati, detailing certain phenomena of terrestrial magnetism, as observed in the trap rock of the Brandywine, which exhibited manifest polarity.

Prof. Frazer stated that some of the trap rock of the Brandywine contained magnetic pyrites; and if the rock alluded to by Prof. Locke contained pyrites, it might account for the phenomena.

Mr. Haldeman made the following remarks on the Phonology of the Wyandots.

Missionaries and others have asserted that the peculiarities of this language are such that it cannot be reduced to writing. A tolerably thorough examination of it, with the assistance of Mr. J. E. Armstrong, a native, have shown that this is not the fact. To a person unaccustomed to rigid analysis of the sounds capable of being produced by the organs of speech, it would be found much more difficult to appreciate the peculiarities of the Cherokee.

The Wyandot alphabet is as follows:—1. *i* (in *field*), 2. *l* (*fit*), 3. *e* (*where*), 4. *ε* (*met*), 5. *ɤ* (*man*, nasal), 6. *a* (*far*), 7. *ɒ* (*flaw*, *nòt*), 8. *o* (*moan*, *no*, nasal), 9. *o* (*word*, *nùt*), 10. *u* (*rule*, *fùll*), 11. *w* (English in *we*), 12. *m*, 13. *n*, 14. *d*, 15'. *ɬ*, 15'. *t*, 16. *ɣ* (the smooth English sound, never vibrant), 17. *j* (*azure*, French *j*), 18. *s* (*hiss*), 19. *r* (*ship*, French *ch*), 20. *j* (*year*, German *jahr*, Italian *jeri*), 21. *g* (*gui* in *get*), 22'. *k*, 22'. *k*, 23. *χ* (Greek, German *ich*), 24. *h* (English and German initial in *held*), 25. *ɸ* (close of the glottis).

The series of vowels is very full, amounting to the five primaries

and five of the secondaries. Several of them are subject to nasality, and two of them, x in *man* (French *vin*), and o in *moan* (French *món*), present the peculiarity of being almost always nasalized; the o , probably, is never natural.

The labial consonants, except *Mi*, and the English *Wi*, are wanting. The 20th letter is frequently nasalized; and when it follows *N* as a nasal, the two become identical with the Spanish \tilde{n} , which is not an uncommon sound. The German combination *ts* is also somewhat common.

Besides the ordinary *gui* and *ki*, there is a *hard ki*, which has every quality of *gui*, except vocality, as in $\acute{x}ll\ k^{\grave{e}}si$, *Allegeny*. This is heard in other Indian languages, and also in German. The *ti* more rarely assumes the same character, as in $\mathbf{t}u\ \mathfrak{z}\ \acute{\epsilon}\ \mathfrak{z}$, an *axe*.

The *hi* (No. 24), presents the peculiarity of being heard with its usual force after a vowel, or as a final; and it is frequently nasalized. Nasal syllables of several letters sometimes occur, as $h\ \mathfrak{z}\ t\ \acute{a}\ \mathfrak{z}$ (the *ear*), $aw\ n\ d\ \epsilon\ r\ \mathfrak{z}\ h\ \mathfrak{z}\ \mathfrak{w}$ (for ever). The final *hi*, after the close of the glottis, is merely the breath which follows the subsequent opening of the passage, and should properly be represented by the Greek *spiritus asper* ($\grave{}$).

The Wyandot numerals, from *one* to *ten*, are as follows. The accented syllable and short vowels should be marked; the former with an accentual, the latter with a dot above.

1. $sk\ \acute{o}\ t$. 2. $t\ \epsilon\ n\ \acute{d}\ \acute{i}$. 3. $r\ \acute{\epsilon}\ h\ k$. 4. $n\ \acute{d}\ \acute{a}\ \mathfrak{z}\ k$. 5. $\acute{u}\ w\ l\ j$.
6. $u\ w\ a\ j\ \acute{u}$. 7. $ts\ \acute{u}\ t\ \acute{a}\ r\ \acute{\epsilon}\ \mathfrak{z}\ h$. 8. $t\ \acute{\epsilon}\ r\ \acute{\epsilon}\ \mathfrak{z}\ h$. 9. $tr\ \acute{o}\ \mathfrak{z}\ h$. 10. $s\ \acute{\epsilon}\ h$.

Dr. Hays stated that Dr. Warren, of Boston, had given him some information in regard to recently discovered mastodons in New York and New Jersey. One of the skeletons is at Harvard College.

A complete skeleton has been disinterred at Newburgh. It has been purchased by Dr. Warren, and put together by him. It is a tetracaulodon.

Dr. Hays pointed out some marked differences between this and the skeletons of the mastodon, which he had examined.

It was moved, by Prof. Frazer, that the letter read this evening from the Historical Society of New York, be referred to a Committee, with power to take order. Mr. Kane, Dr. Ludlow, and Prof. Hare, were appointed the Committee.