

XV.—Indian Names

In the published Collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Indian names for several of the towns, rivers, &c., in that State are given, and the question is asked, what is the English meaning for the words? I send you a few, with a translation as given me by Louis M. Moran, one of the interpreters of the Chippewas:

Mil-wau-kee—pronounced by the Indians Me-ne-aw-kee: a rich or beautiful land.

She-boy-gan: a hollow bone.

Wau-ke-sha—pronounced by the Chippewas Waw-goosh-sha: the little fox.

Pee-wau-kee—pronounced, and should be spelled, Pee-wau-naw-kee: the flinty place.

Wau-pe-te-see-pe—the Indian word is Wee-be-te-see-pee: Tooth River.

Osh-kosh: a hoof.*

Manitou-wauk: the home or place of the spirits.

There are many parts of long Indian names which are almost inaudible when spoken by an Indian, and yet they are necessary to make any sense of the word. White men generally, in writing such names, leave a part out, and the consequence is, that interpreters can make nothing of them.

* We believe the invariable definition of the word Osh-kosh among the Menomonees, is—brave.

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