

# APRIL 17, 1890

## HERE IN BOSTON.

I think the illustration of the higher uses of the phonograph to be given at the meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society this week a very interesting one, and the more so because of the natural character of the manifestations. After listening to the more or less artificial speeches and musical performances from the phonograph, it is peculiarly pleasant to hear the songs, tales, legends and conversations of the Passamaquoddy Indians. I hope the result will be to confirm Mr. Charles Godfrey Leland's opinion of the high character of their folk-lore. It occurs to me that a new attraction may be given to summer life at Mt. Desert, which is frequented by these Indians, by the use of the phonograph to transmit their ideal productions, which will be an agreeable substitute for their ingenious, though somewhat monotonous, realism as displayed in straw baskets and bead bags. Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, whose recent studies among the Passamaquoddies form the basis of his paper to be read before this society, is entitled to great credit for his careful investigations, and I hope the phonograph under his management will give a truthful report of what the red men talked and sang into it.

