

metal of a lighter color and inferior hardness.* It is very natural that these gold-seeking adventurers should have anticipated everywhere traces of that valuable metal; and concerning the statements of the Indians in relation to the melting, it is well known how apt the crafty natives always were to regulate their answers according to the wishes of the inquirers. Yet, notwithstanding these improbabilities, the fact remains that the natives of the present Southern States used implements of copper some centuries ago. Indeed, I have seen in the collection of Colonel Charles C. Jones, of Brooklyn, copper articles of the above description, obtained in the State of Georgia. When Henry Hudson discovered, in 1609, the magnificent river that bears his name, he noticed among the Indians of that region pipes and ornaments made of copper. "They had red copper tobacco-pipes, and other things of copper they did wear about their necks." Robert Juet, who served under Hudson as mate in the Half-Moon, relates these details in the journal he has left behind.† Additional statements of similar purport might be cited from the early relations concerning the discovery of North America.

While Messrs. Squier and Davis were engaged, more than twenty years ago, in surveying the earthworks of the Mississippi valley, more especially those of the State of Ohio, they found in the sepulchral and so-called sacrificial mounds a number of copper objects, which they have described and figured in the work containing the results of their investigations.‡ They also met small pieces of the unwrought natural metal in some of the mounds. The copper specimens obtained during this survey were formerly in the possession of Dr. Davis, one of the explorers, and I had frequent occasion to examine them. At present they form a part of the Blackmore Museum, at Salisbury, England, to which institute Dr. Davis sold his valuable collection. They are either implements, such as axes, chisels, and gravers; or bracelets, beads, and other probably ornamental objects, exhibiting quite peculiar forms, which were, perhaps, owing to the singular methods employed in fashioning the copper into definite shapes. The axes resemble the flat celts of the European bronze period, and doubtless were fastened in handles like the latter. Some of the bracelets of the better class are of very good workmanship, the simple rods which form them being well rounded and smoothed, and bent into a regular circle until their ends meet. I have seen quite similar bronze bracelets in European collections. The objects just described obviously have been fashioned by hammering; others, however, consisting of hammered copper sheet, received their final shape by *pressure*. To these belong certain circular concavo-convex discs, from one and one-

* Narratives of the Career of Hernando de Soto in the Conquest of Florida, as told by a Knight of Elvas, and in a Relation by Luys Hernandez de Biedma, Factor of the Expedition. Translated by Buckingham Smith. New York, 1865, p. 72.

† Journal of the Voyage of the Half-Moon, in Collections of the New York Historical Society, Second Series, Vol. I, 1841, p. 323.

‡ Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, pp. 196-207.