

(For the SCIENTIST.)

## THE "GREAT RED PIPE STONE QUARRY."

A few miles from the east line of Dakota, and near the south-west corner of Minnesota, lies this famous place, immortalised, like the Basin of Minas, and made known all over the world, by the genius of Longfellow. The "red crags" are of Sioux quartzite, a very hard glassy rock which underlies a large extent of country. At the edge of a high prairie plateau, a creek leaps down among these crags which it has exposed by washing away the soil. On the upper surface of the red sand stone and below the superincumbent layers of stone and earth, lies one single sheet of pipestone, which never exceeds four inches in thickness. Strong, compact, and heavy, bright red, or darker with innumerable light red dottings, and occasional brown or yellow clouded spots, it was proved ages ago to be the best material for pipes that the savage could find. Although found nowhere else on the continent, still its fragments and wrought specimens were known to every North American tribe, and are dug up among the relics of the farthest scattered bands. Annual pilgrimage were made, from the banks of the Missouri, the Arkansas, the Saskatchewan, or the Red river, from Lake Superior, Lake Winnipeg and the forests of the Rocky Mountains, to bring back a supply of the precious stone, to lend grace and solemnity to their councils and cabinet sessions. When spring clothed the prairie with verdure, so that pony travelling was practicable, these deputations of savages from every direction sought this common central spot, safe in the ancestral custom of sacred truce which made them lay aside their wars and feuds when in search of the valued stone from which was made the Puk-wa-na, or pipe of peace. But though this was common ground to all the Indians, yet they were very hostile to allowing any white men to dig or carry away an ounce of their catlinite. One old surveyor of my acquaintance has told me how jealously they watched him and prevented his securing any of it. The United States government has granted as a permanent reservation common to all tribes of Indians, a tract of

about one mile square, including this celebrated quarry; but there are not now many Indians within a hundred miles of it, and it is easier now to obtain the stone. Those who live nearest make part of their living by digging it up and carving grotesque pipes and ornaments for sale to the whites. These articles bear a good price, and are carried away by all tourists.

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## NOTES.

The man who looks for design in nature may behold it everywhere. In every tree he may see the Creator as well as Moses beheld Him in the burning bush. The more carefully he studies the objects of earth and sky and ocean, the more devoutly can he exclaim :

"These are Thy glorious works, Parent of Good !  
Almighty ! Thine this universal frame,  
Thus wondrous fair; Thyself how wondrous then !"

—*The Argosy.*

After the Zambesi, the Bembe is the largest river of Eastern Africa. Its valley is very fertile,—suitable for the growth of sugar-cane, cotton, etc.,—and is well populated. To the northward the country is more healthy for Europeans. Its fine forests of valuable wood contain many elephants, and its saline lagoons are full of hippopotami; but, in consequence of the absence of native population, tsetse-fly is found everywhere through it. It possesses all the conditions to make it suitable for the immigration of millions of Europeans, who will find its soil more fertile than that they have left. It is perhaps the most populous region of tropical Africa; and its millions of natives, placed in contact with civilization, will become consumers of innumerable European wares.—*Science.*