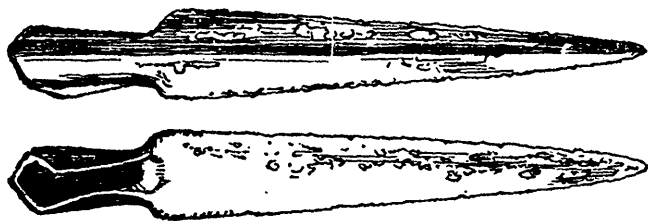


through all its vast unoccupied wildernesses, as to preclude the possibility that there yet may be discovered among the recesses of its forests, grave mounds of the ancient Brachycephalic race, whose physical characteristics seem clearly to prove that the race of the mound-builders of America and the red Indian tribes that succeeded to the forests are distinct.

The numerous ancient implements and weapons of copper already found in the mining regions of Lake Superior, entirely correspond with the other evidences of combined operation protracted over long periods of time, disclosed by the ancient Ontonagon mines; and concerning which no traditions of the present native tribes of the country indicate the slightest knowledge. At the Bigelow House at Ontonagon, I had an opportunity of examining an interesting collection of copper relics found, a few months before in the neighborhood. These consisted of three copper spear-heads, one about fourteen inches, and the others about twelve inches in length; and two singularly shaped copper gouges (?) about fourteen inches long, and two wide, the precise use of which it would be difficult to determine. It was my good fortune to make the acquaintance, while at Ontonagon, of Captain Peck, whose knowledge of the native languages, and residence for years among the red Indians, have given him good opportunities of judging of their habits and arts; and his idea of the copper gouges was that they were designed for cutting holes in the ice for fishing, according to a method still pursued by the Indians for obtaining their winter supply of Lake fish. A different and more probable opinion, however, was advanced by a practical miner, who stated that he had been among the first who opened some of the ancient diggings found at the Minnesota mine, and the copper gouges seemed exactly adapted to produce the singular tool-marks which had then excited his curiosity. Subjoined is a representation of one of the spear-heads, sketched from the original. Its form is singular,



the blade being three-sided like that of a bayonet. The socket has been formed by hammering out the lower part flat, and then turning it over partially at each side. Precisely such a mode of fitting the