

ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORT.

one of the amorphous or imperfectly crystalline forms of silicon. To the extent of my knowledge, it does not run in strata as do the limestones or sandstones, although it is often found as nodules embedded in the limestone formations as at Silver Creek, near Buffalo; a specimen of which has been experimented with, but not successfully, owing to lack of persistence perhaps on the part of my friend who performed the experiment. Either that, or it compels us to conclude that some so-called flint—we have no true flint in this country or the United States—is more stubborn or unyielding to the finer sense of treatment, but we are sure that in masses heated it will submit to the action of fire and water. All rock will become fractured to such treatment.

While making my own experiments I frequently became much discouraged with the results obtained. Persistence won at last, however, and I succeeded in forming a very fair specimen of arrow-tip by this method alone—heating and dropping water.

Let us for a moment betake ourselves—in imagination—to where a savage is about to prepare the sweat bath; or heat his water for, say, cooking his food.

We will suppose he belongs to that class or race who do not use vessels of pottery, but such as are formed of grass or wicker and rendered impervious to water by a resinous substance:—conditions prohibiting their being placed in immediate contact with fire. He builds his fire, then he heats stones which he contrives to place in the water, thus heating it. Alive to his needs, his inventive faculties are at once aroused as he observes a stone fly into fragments upon being submerged.

This phenomenon of heating and cooling starts him thinking, he conceives likewise the idea of reversing matters; instead of dropping the stone into the water, he drops the water upon the stone! He has discovered that he can bring stone under submission.

If these quotations, proofs and reasonings are considered worthy of notice, this paper will have served its purpose, and what has been, and still is, a pleasure to me, will in all probability furnish some slight pleasure for others; if such should prove to be the case the writer will feel amply rewarded and highly gratified for his endeavours in connection with a matter which has so long been of interest to himself. What I have here presented may, I trust, prove of value to the student when making examination of those examples of native art and ingenuity, which, though often spurned by the clodhopper, are not the less a proof that the savage is entitled to a high consideration from us along the lines of investigation into his modes of life, his activities, and the effect of those influences with which nature surrounded him. The North American pagan presents to the world a most noble specimen, in many respects, of natural man. In contrast with others he is much more elevated in the scale of human greatness.

Facing the multitudinous needs of life, he fought his battles, hunted his food, built his home, clothed himself and his family, built his canoe for his nomadic journeys, largely by the aid of fashioned flint.