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THE ANCIENT MINERS OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

BY DANIEL WILSON, LL. D.,

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

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During the past summer of 1855, it was my good fortune to accomplish a long desired visit to the ancient copper country of Lake Superior, where, more perhaps than on any other spot of this continent, may be witnessed the incipient traces of aboriginal arts and civilization. On that occasion I had an opportunity of exploring part of the rich copper-bearing region of Keweenaw Point and the adjacent country, and witnessing for myself evidences of ancient mining operations, which prove the existence, at some remote period, of the rudiments of native metallurgic arts.

The Keweenaw Peninsula is traversed obliquely by a range of trap rock, rising in some places into magnificent cliffs of several hundred feet in height; and in this igneous rock, which passes in a southwestern direction across the Keweenaw Lake into the inland country, are found the rich copper veins which have already conferred such great commercial value on that district of Michigan. In their present state, it is difficult to realize the conception that these copper regions were ever ransacked for their mineral treasures, or explored by any other but the stray hunter of the forest, until the commencement of regular mining operations in very recent years.

Landing at Eagle River, I made my way some miles into the country, through dense forest, over a road, in some parts of rough corduroy, and in others traversing the forest in its gradual ascent,