

deductions derived by European archaeologists from isolated examples of primitive art.

The pipe, however, which presents so many and characteristic forms, among the Indian tribes of the far west, whatever may have been its importance in ancient times, is no longer the special object of sacred associations. It is to the pipe-stem that the modern Indian attaches that superstitious veneration which among the Mound Builders would appear to have pertained to the pipe itself. The medicine pipe-stem is the palladium of the tribe, on which its safety in peace and its success in war, and it is accorded with all the veneration, and surrounded with the reverence, fitting so sacred an institution: while in its use in the council, or in the medicine dance, so long as the proper and consecrated pipe-stem is employed, it matters not whether the pipe itself be of the richest carving of which the red stone of the *couleau des prairies* is susceptible, or be the begrimed stump of a trader's English "clay."

The medicine pipe-stem carrier is accordingly an officer of great dignity in the tribe, and its holder is endowed with special, though somewhat burdensome, honors and privileges. A highly ornamental tent is provided for his use, and frequently he is required to have so many horses as renders the office even more onerous than honourable. A bear-skin robe is set apart for wrapping up the medicine pipe-stem, when carried, and for laying it on while exposed to view. When wrapped up in its covering, the pipe-stem is usually carried by the favourite wife of the dignitary, while he himself bears in his hands—and not merely on his head—the medicine bowl, out of which he takes his food. But though the sacred pipe-stem is almost invariably borne by the wife of the Indian dignitary, it is never allowed to be uncovered in the presence of a woman, and should one even by chance cast her eyes on it when thus exposed, its virtues can only be restored by a tedious ceremony, designed to counteract the evil effects and to propitiate the insulted spirit. If the stem is allowed to fall to the ground, whether designedly or from accident, it is in like manner regarded as an omen of evil, and many elaborate ceremonies have to be gone through before it is reinstated in its former favour and beneficent influence. Mr. Kane met with a young Cree half-breed who confessed to him that, in a spirit of daring scepticism, he had once secretly thrown down the medicine pipe-stem and kicked it about; but soon after its official carrier was slain, and such misfortunes followed as left no doubt on his mind of the awful