

them are quite plain, being flat on one side, and round on the other, with the ends at right angles to the sides. In every case these and the bird-forms are perforated at each end of the base or flat side, the holes being bored diagonally as in Fig. 53, but where bars are formed across each end, as if in imitation of feet, the holes penetrate these in the middle and at right angles to them in the direction of the object's longer axis.

Schoolcraft described all such specimens (Figs. 50 to 53) as knife-handles, but as no blades have ever been found showing any arrangement for attachment to articles of this sort, it must be concluded that this was not their purpose.

It seems more probable that they and the perforated tablets—perhaps also the stone tubes—were worn partly as articles of personal adornment and partly as amulets or luck-stones, and we can ill afford to smile at the superstitions of the aborigines in this or any other respect so long as we have among ourselves persons who keep coins (known as pocket-pieces) for luck; who carry horse chestnuts to ward off rheumatic attacks, and who suspend old horse-shoes over their doors, for what?



FIG. 54. ($\frac{2}{3}$ Size.)

Fig. 54 is one of the incomprehensibles. Although small and unfinished a good deal of labor has been spent upon it. The material is that light grayish-blue slate, so much in favor for perforated tablets, and what we call "ceremonial" weapons. An oval cavity has been made on the upper side, and at the end facing us in the cut a beginning has been made in the carving of a human face. But the further end is the most instructive part of this object, for there we are able to perceive the method employed to detach it from another piece. A thin flake of flint has been used as we would use a file to make a deep incision all round, and when the part has been sufficiently weakened the two pieces have been forcibly broken.

It should not be omitted to state that a hole has been bored through this stone from the bottom of the cavity already mentioned.



FIG. 55.

Another slate object is shown as Fig. 55. It measures three by two-and-a-half inches, and looks as if it had been intended for a pipe. Boring has been done from both ends, but the holes have not met. It was picked up on lot 18, con. 6, McGillivray Township, the farm of Mr. Wm. Meikle.—Matheson Collection.

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