

MODERN SPECIMENS.

Mr. M. M. Fenwick, B. A., Head Master of the Farmersville High School, and F. F. Payne, Esq., have each presented the museum with a number of specimens that will prove valuable for comparative purposes.

The contribution of the former gentleman consists of wearing apparel, ornaments and weapons in use among the Arouay Indians of British Guiana; and the latter of several suits of Eskimo clothing, two Kayak models and a number of other valuable articles.

A donation of \$10 from President Vandermissen was expended in the purchase of specimens.

The following report by Mr. A. F. Hunter is interesting. The writer has gone over some portions of Simcoe County with considerable care, and his estimate of the number of villages and ossuaries, indicates that a large Indian population formerly occupied that part of our Province.

Mr. Hunter's general remarks have rendered it unnecessary for me to refer further to the points involved, more especially as the space at our command is limited.

VILLAGES.

According to the Jesuits, there were in the year 1639 thirty-two inhabited villages of the Hurons in the small territory between Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay. There is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the Jesuits' statement, but we have located the sites of upwards of one hundred Huron villages within that area. All these, however, were not occupied at the same time, as the remains show. Some had evidently been abandoned before the arrival of the French, because all research has failed to reveal any traces of French intercourse; while other sites yield abundant evidence of the presence of French traders. The Hurons were incessantly harassed by hostile tribes, and were compelled to shift their habitations from time to time. Their filthy domestic habits also rendered it impossible for them to remain long in one place. They were thus obliged to lead a half nomadic life, although they were quite stationary when compared with Chippewas, Ottawas, and the other existing tribes. And hence it came that only a few of the villages, whose remains are still traceable, were occupied at the time of the Jesuit census.

The sites of nearly all these villages are marked by artificial depressions and elevations of the surface of the ground, ashes and *debris* at some distance below the surface, stone implements, fragments of pottery in great abundance, besides many other relics. Articles of early French manufacture are often found. These villages were of various sizes, ranging from two or three lodges to extensive hamlets. The largest site known to us is in the northern part of the township of Oro; it covers an area of more than fifteen acres. Many of them were palisaded; but nearly all traces of fortification have been obliterated, owing to the great length of time that had elapsed since they were deserted. In one instance—a village site in the township of Flos—we observed the remains of stone fortification and mound-building without any collateral traces of French intercourse. A large ossuary near it contained no articles of French manufacture when it was excavated in the year 1882. All the Huron villages were situated on elevated ground where the soil is light, but close to a supply of fresh water; and in many cases we have been able to locate a chain of villages lying along a particular trail, whose direction depended on the physical features of the region.

The fortified missions of the Jesuits are still traceable—Ste. Marie on the Wye, Ste. Marie on Christian Island, Ste. Jean Baptiste, and a few others. The sites of Wenio, Ste. Marie, Ste. Louis, Ste. Ignace, and other mission posts were minutely examined by Dr. Tache, as well as by Rev. Father Laboureau, of Penetanguishene, who has also examined many other sites with interesting results.