ANCIENT ABORIGINAL TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA.

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kenmoedding at Keyport, New Jersey, described by me in the Smithsonian Report for 1864, evidently was one of the places where flint implements were made by the natives. I not only saw there among the shellheaps countless chips of flint, but found also a number of unfinished arrowheads, which had been thrown aside on account of a wrong crack or some other defect in the stone. The necessary material was here furnished on the spot, in the shape of innumerable water-worn pebbles of silicious character, which lie intermixed with the shells. Among the unfinished arrowheads picked up by me at this place there are some which exhibit a part of the smooth water-worn surface of the pebble from which they were made.

In the middle part of the Mississippi valley, where I lived many years, and had occasion to make various observations, the Indians were amply provided by nature with the material employed in the fabrication of spear and arrowheads. The prevailing rock of those regions is a limestone in which several of the varieties of the quartz family are found, either in layers or in irregular concretions. In the bluff formations of the "American Bottom" in Illinois, for instance, I have traced myself layers of hornstone, chalcedony, &c., for the distance of miles. In the districts under notice, moreover, the surface is covered here and there with many silicious pebbles and boulders, which furnished an inexhaustible supply of available material.

An important locality to which the aborigines resorted, perhaps from great distances, for quarrying flint, is in Ohio, on the line of a calcareosilicious deposit, called "Flint Ridge," which extends through Muskingum and Licking Counties of that State. "The compact silicious material of which this ridge is made up," says Dr. Hildreth, "seems to have attracted the notice of the aborigines, who have manufactured it largely into arrow and spearheads, if we may be allowed to judge from the numerous circular excavations which have been made in mining the rock, and the piles of chipped quartz lying on the surface. How extensively it has been worked for these purposes, may be imagined from the countless number of the pits, experience having taught them that the rock recently dug from the earth could be split with more freedom than that which had lain exposed to the weather. These excavations are found the whole length of the outcrop, but more abundantly at 'Flint Ridge,' where it is most compact and diversified with rich colors."*

The Indian working-places of which I spoke are not always met in the neighborhood of those spots where flint was quarried or otherwise abundant, but also sometimes at considerable distances from the latter, in which cases they are, of course, of comparatively small extent. Their existence, however, proves that the material was transported from place to place, and thus assumed the character of a ware. Colonel

* Hildreth, in Mather's First Annual Report on the Geological Survey of the State of Ohio, Columbus, 1838, p. 31.

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