

A was a pottery-yard, or place of deposit, where the occupants of this hut kept a supply of clay for the manufacture of pots and earthen vessels. These people had ready to their hand, in the flat of land which they had chosen as a site for their village, a good tough clay, well suited for making pottery, when mixed with a due proportion of sand. Nevertheless, they do not appear in any case to have used it, but took the mud of the sea-shore, near low-tide mark, for the manufacture of their ware. Such I infer to have been the case, for in the course of our excavations we came across patches of pottery clay in various spots, and at several levels in the hut bottoms A, B and C, and kitchen-middens adjoining them, and in all cases the material thus used was beach-mud, mingled with numerous shells of mussel and clam. In preparing this mud for use, these women of the Stone Age picked out the coarser stones and gravel and many of the shells before moulding and baking their pots. But in consequence of the imperfections of the material used as the basis of their pottery, and the very imperfect firing to which the ware was subjected, it was exceedingly fragile. The coarseness of the clay used in the manufacture, as well as these defects in the material, and the imperfect baking, compelled these potters to make their ware quite thick, in order to obtain the necessary strength. Their vessels were seldom less than three-eighths of an inch thick in any part, except near the rim, and the bottoms were usually about half an inch thick. As I have already remarked, the women appear to have been slovenly in their housekeeping, and as an added instance of this trait I may mention that the charred remains of their pottage still cling to the fragments of their vessels. In the fine charcoal and ashes around the fire-place of hut bottom A were found numbers of parched peas, and of a round seed of the size of those of the radish, as well as grains apparently of some kind of grass. The peas were about the size and appearance of Beach Peas (*Lathyrus maritimus*, Big.), a plant which now grows plentifully at high-water mark on the beach in front of the village site.

But while animadverting upon their carelessness in some respects, it is only just to give them credit for a considerable amount of rude taste in the ornamentation of their pottery. Upon the fragments found at the three hut bottoms we examined there are no less than ten distinct designs or patterns impressed upon

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