

an Ojibway Indian had informed him they were employed in playing a game of chance. This sage Indian affirmed that several of them were put into a vessel and shaken up. The vessel was then inverted like a dice-box, and the count was reckoned for or against the player, in accordance with the number found standing or fallen when the vessel was removed. There is more than one reason for believing that the Ojibway was a mere guesser at truth, and a very poor guesser too. 1st, because the bases of some are rounded off so much, or are so narrow, that it requires careful adjustment to make them stand at all. 2nd, many are top-heavy and therefore easily overbalanced. (Fig. 51 is illustrative of this,

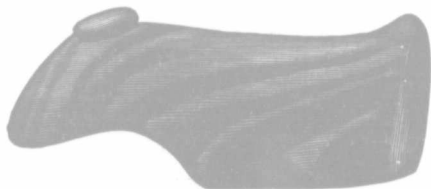


Fig. 51. ($\frac{1}{2}$ Size.)

and of the convex base.) In the third place, what is perhaps the strongest reason why these objects were not so employed, consists in the fact that they seldom show any signs of abrasion. On the contrary, they are, of all relics those that are most frequently found in the best state of preservation. Other reasons might be adduced, as, for example, that these bird-forms are chiefly made of slate, or some equally fragile material. Fig. 50 however, is an exception to this, it being formed of huronite, a very hard and refractory kind of stone. Our collection contains another of these bird-forms, made from the same material.

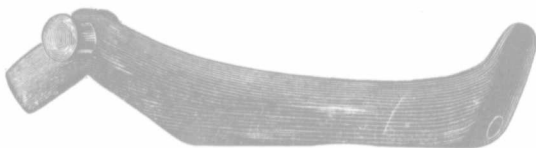


Fig. 52. ($\frac{1}{2}$ Size.)

In Figs. 50 and 52 the eye pieces stand out from the head like cuff buttons having a long and substantial stalk.

Fig. 51 is the only specimen of the kind I have seen having a projection on the crown. These three are from the township of West Williams. Fig. 50 is from the farm of Mr. Archibald McEwan; Fig. 51 from that of Mr. W. H. Johnston, lot 9, con. 21; and Fig. 52 from Mr. Robert Gray's property, on the 18th concession. They are part of the Matheson collection.

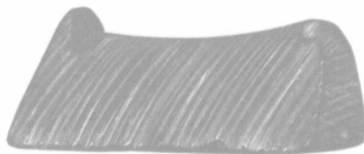


Fig. 53 ($\frac{1}{2}$ Size.)

Forms similar in material and construction but without any pretence at the imitation of birds or other animals are not uncommon. Fig. 53 is an example, but many of