

*Marginella*, *Natica* and *Oliva* shells were found in the mounds of Ohio by Messrs. Squier and Davis. *Marginella* shells were also discovered in an Illinois mound.

A broken valve of *Mytilus edulis*, from the Atlantic coast, was found on a village site in Victoria county. This is now in the Laidlaw collection in the Museum.

We have another illustration of the wide extent of this aboriginal commerce in shells, in the finding of *dentalium* or tusk shells in mounds of the Mississippi valley. These were undoubtedly obtained from the Indians of the Pacific coast; or, if these dentalia were natives of the West Indies, they may have reached Ohio through the Indians of the southern coasts of the United States.

Rau says that "more than a hundred years ago, it was noticed by Carver that sea-shells were much worn by the Indians of the interior parts—he chiefly refers to the Dakotas of the upper Mississippi—and reckoned very ornamental."<sup>1</sup>

Professor Holmes accounts for the origin of the trade in shells by assuming that these objects worn as ornaments were transported "to distant places by wandering tribes, exchanges would take place with other tribes, and finally a trade would be developed and a future commerce of nations would be inaugurated."<sup>2</sup>

Many of these shells, and the ornaments wrought from them, also may have been reprisals in warfare. It is well known that some tribes of the modern Indians made frequent warlike incursions into the country of their enemies, often over a thousand miles away. "Bands of Iroquois from central New York," says Thurston, "came all the way down the tributaries of the Ohio in their light canoes, and up the winding Cumberland, to enjoy the pleasure of pillaging and burning the houses of the less warlike Shawnees near Nashville. They sometimes pursued the Cherokees and Chickasaws to the banks of the Tennessee River."<sup>3</sup> Rau speaks of six hundred warriors of the Seneca tribe, who, in 1680, "invaded the territory of the Illinois, among whom La Salle sojourned just at that time, preparing to descend the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. More than a hundred years ago, the traveller Carver learned from the Winnebagoes (in the present state of Wisconsin) that they sometimes made war-excursions to the south-western parts inhabited by Spaniards (New Mexico), and that it required months to go there." Rau concludes from this that "Similar excursions and migrations, of course, took place during the early unknown periods of North American history. In the course of such enterprises the property of the vanquished naturally fell into the hands of the victors, who appropriated everything that appeared useful or desirable to them. The consequence was an exchange by force—if I may call it so—which caused many of the manufactures and commodities of the various tribes to be scattered over the face of the country."<sup>4</sup>

A considerable impetus was given to the shell trade by the arrival of the Europeans on this continent, many of whom were soon engaged in it. Cabeça de Vaca was one of these early traders. In his *Relation* he tells us that he supported himself chiefly by trading, among other things, in flints, skins, sea-beans, mineral paint, pieces and "hearts" of sea-shells, shells used as cutting implements, and a smaller kind which passed as

<sup>1</sup> Opp. cit., p. 374.

<sup>2</sup> "Art in Shell," p. 188.

<sup>3</sup> "Antiquities of Tennessee," p. 83.

<sup>4</sup> Opp. cit., p. 349.