

Champlain in his "Voyages" (Vol. II., pp. 83-84) narrates the following incident which occurred at Nausett Harbor, Mass.: "On the 23rd of July (1605) four or five sailors having gone on shore with some kettles to get fresh water * * * some savages coveting them, watched the time when our men went to the spring and then seized one out of the hand of the sailor," with the result that the kettle was lost and the sailor slain.

These kettles have been found in many parts of Canada and are generally made of copper or brass.

Three of these kettles were found in 1879 at Tabusintac interred with human remains. Dr. A. C. Smith brought the discovery before the Society and an account of the find was published.* In this connection it may be of interest to quote what Champlain says in his *Voyages* (Vol. II., pp. 191-192) about burial customs of the Indians at Quebec: "When a man or woman dies, they dig a pit in which they put all their property, as kettles, furs, axes, bows, arrows, robes and other things. Then they place the body in the pit and cover it with earth." In 1899, Dr. A. C. Smith sent to the Society an account of the finding of some graves of the early French period at Wilson's Point, Shippegan. Here stood an old French fort, now washed away, which has been described by Prof. W. F. Ganong† and is marked on his map as "Denys' Fort."

The following is an extract from a letter by Dr. Smith to the Society, dated at Tracadie, Sept. 19, 1899: "Four circular depressions in the ground, about 100 feet from the shore, were noticed by two men who happened to pass through the woods. In one hole they found the copper kettle which I will forward in a few days. In the kettle they found the skull, arm bones and ribs, but the bones of the lower extremities were outside of the pot. Over the mouth of the vessel was the skin of some animal, and over the skin birch bark. I saw the circular skin covering, but it was too sodden to bring away. In the other holes were found pots, axes, a sword, knives, a harpoon, and a pair of bracelets. In a small pot were some beads."

In a letter written some days later he adds:

"The round holes were four in number; about three feet in diameter and about four feet apart. Clearly they were graves; and

* Bulletin V., pp. 14-19, 1886.

† Proceedings Royal Soc. Canada, Vol. V. (Sec. series) Sec 11, pp. 297-299, 1899.