

Welsh gentlemen of science, one of whom enclosed me drawings from, and another the *beads themselves*, found in *tumuli*, and also in the present progress of manufacture in Wales, precisely the same in character, in shape, and in colour and composition, as those in my collection brought from the Mandans.

The manufacture of these blue beads by the Mandans was guarded as a profound secret until the time of their destruction, although the Fur Company had made them repeated and liberal offers if they would divulge it, as the Mandan beads commanded a much higher price amongst the Mandans and the neighbouring tribes to whom they bartered them, than the beads introduced by the fur traders.

The *canoes* or boats of the Mandans, differing from those of all other tribes in America, were precisely the *Welsh coracle*, made of a bull's hide stretched over a frame of willow rods, bent and interlocked, and *pulled* over the water by the paddle, in the same manner as the coracle is pulled, by reaching forward with the paddle instead of passing it by the side of the boat, which is nearly round, and the paddler seated or kneeling in its front.

From the translation of their name, already mentioned, *Nu-mah-kwi-kee* (pheasants), an important inference may be drawn in support of the probability of their having formerly lived much farther to the south, as that bird does not exist on the prairies of the Upper Missouri, and is not to be met with short of the heavy forests of Ohio and Indiana, one thousand eight hundred miles south of the last residence of the Mandans.

And in their familiar name of *Mandan*, which is not an Indian word, there are equally singular and important features. In the first place, that they knew nothing of the name or how they got it; and next, that the word *Mandan* in the Welsh language (it being purely a Welsh word) means *red dye*, of which further mention will be made.