



ARTICLE V.

SOME RELICS OF THE EARLY FRENCH PERIOD IN
NEW BRUNSWICK.

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(Read December 4, 1900.)

From time to time various articles relating to the early occupation of this province by the French have been deposited in the museum of this Society. Chief among these accessions are the articles donated by Dr. A. C. Smith, of Tracadie, N. B., one of our most energetic corresponding members.

Jacques Cartier visited Miramichi Bay and Bay Chaleur in 1534, and from that time until the voyage of Champlain in 1604, there are many reasons for believing that numerous fishing and trading vessels visited our shores. These adventurous sailors carried on an active trade with the natives. The traders wanted furs, and for these they bartered iron tomahawks, knives, kettles, beads, etc. A brief account of such articles used in the trade as we have in our museum, with some others, may be of interest to our members and of some practical use to future investigators.

Kettles.

Before the arrival of Europeans the aborigines made rude earthen vessels. No perfect specimens of these have yet been found in New Brunswick, but from such fragments as have been recovered, it would appear that these articles were quite small. They were also heavy,* and, as Dr. G. F. Matthew has pointed out, were very fragile on account of being imperfectly burned. The metal kettle of the Europeans was therefore very much desired and highly prized.

* Bulletin of this Society, No. X, p. 14, 1892.