

When an archaeological survey of the entire plateau region in Canada is completed, slight variations in the material culture will, no doubt, be disclosed; but not until this general investigation has been made will it be possible to differentiate the handiwork of one part of the plateau region from that of another. A comparative study of the plateau culture of the Washington State interior, on the one hand, and the Thompson River region, on the other, shows a somewhat different culture in the respective areas; but it is evident that both belong to the same general plateau culture; a material culture in marked contrast to that found on the Pacific coast to the west, and entirely different from that of the Great Plains to the east.

Archæological remains are useful data from which to reconstruct the life of a prehistoric people, as far as it is possible to do so from the imperfect materials which have withstood the ravages of time. They are collected sometimes from the earth's surface—where they have been either lost or discarded—sometimes by excavating in the sites of old camps and villages, and are sometimes dug from ancient graves.

*Our Previous Knowledge.*—The life of the prehistoric people of the main Thompson valley was practically unknown to the world until about 1897. There were, perhaps, a dozen pages published which gave some little information on the life of these people, but ignorance prevailed as to the character of their handicrafts or material culture; the things which they made and used. It was not generally known, for instance, whether they knew how to make pottery; whether they used straight or crooked pipes; or whether they were good carvers and etchers.