

In the decorative art of the Hurons, (on pottery, pipes, etc.), geometrical designs have an important place. These arts reached the Hurons from the direction of the Sioux and the southwestern tribes of the plains. In the opposite direction, (viz., among the Eskimo and remoter Algonquins), free-hand ornamentation prevailed, *i. e.*, the use of figures of animals, etc. This question will be treated more fully under the head of pipes of the Huron tribes.

#### CURRENT THEORIES OF THE ORIGIN OF THE HURONS.

After thus tracing some of the resemblances and contrasts between the Huron tribes and the two adjacent groups or stocks, (of which the grouping has unfortunately been founded upon the basis of language, which is a very frail method, but as it is the current one it would be inconvenient to depart from it), let us now review some of the current theories of the origin of the Hurons. The foregoing considerations have led us to the conclusion that the Huron language, akin to the Sioux languages, though remotely so, was once grafted upon a race stock akin in its physical characters to those who now use the Algonquian languages. They have also forced upon us the resemblance to a condition of things that would occur if some conquering Sioux had come from a treeless region, for example, one in the Ohio valley or the Mississippi valley regions, and had taken refuge in the forests of Canada, mixing in small numbers with the native Algonquins. In other words, that the Huron tribes derived their origin from the interaction of the Sioux and Algonquian peoples. I do not pretend to say that this was actually the way in which they arose, because all intermediate peoples could be accounted for in a similar way. It is impossible to define the exact lines along which the interaction has taken place, but some general facts in regard to it may be traced.

In this connection we should recall the fact that any migrations of whole nations has been less in amount than is usually supposed, and among barbarous peoples migration is merely local in its extent. The distance the Hurons had migrated to their last place of refuge in the northern parts of Simcoe County, could not have been very great.

The permanence of a race, with its indelible physical characters, in any definite locality, is a point that is frequently emphasized by good anthropologists, and the rule holds even for the Indians. In eastern parts of North America, as we have already observed, there were but two permanent extremes of races, viz., the tall type, of whom the Sioux tribes of the plains are the modern representatives; and the dwarfish Eskimo type. The Hurons and the Algonquins of the forest belt merged into the two extreme types on both sides of them, and were geographically intermediate, as well as occupying an intermediate position in stature, headform and other physical traits, between the two extremes, the Hurons having been almost like the Algonquins in their physical characters.

Theories of the origin of the Hurons, which assign to them some remote region as the source from which they came, do not have much to support them, especially the far-fetched Labrador theory. There are enough ancient Huron village sites dotting the surface of Ontario to-day to have served the Huron tribes as dwelling places for centuries. It has been claimed by some that the Huron tribes descended from the northeast to where they were ultimately found by the early French. This view is sometimes based upon a tradition obtained from the Indians themselves, as to the migrations of their ancestors, and is somewhat misleading. This may have referred to the origin of some Algonquian-speaking tribe or tribes, whose migration myth became