

Chief among the objects procured from Mr. Matheson, may be enumerated fifty slate tablets or gorgets, perforated with one or more holes and varying to a great extent in form, seven banner stones, or as they are called in a recent publication emanating from the Smithsonian Institute, "butter-fly stones," thirteen bird-formed amulets (1), two spherical hammers of granite formation (these are encircled with a deep groove for attachment to a handle), two flat hammers (both notched for handle attachment), six stone pipes, six short tubes, five shell ornaments complete, two imperfect ornaments of the same material, two copper spear or lance heads (one having a tine or prong for insertion in a handle, the other being provided with a socket to receive the handle), one native copper axe, showing unmistakeable traces of native silver, eleven grooved axes, one hundred and eighty plain axes, eleven iron tomahawks, some of them of a different pattern from anything already in our possession, six gouges, and a north-west "shaganappi" covered club. There are also several hundred flints, many of them of considerable size and well formed—others so rudely chipped as to prove admirable examples of the work done in what some writers would fain regard as the paleolithic period on this continent.

The large number of flints and axes in this collection will enable us to do, when opportunity offers, what we have hitherto been unable to perform satisfactorily, viz.: effect exchanges with individuals and institutions in our own and other countries.

From W. Ransom, Esq., England, we have received, through Mr. J. H. Pearce, President of the Biological Section of the Institute, a number of very good paleolithic flints, illustrative of early European "society." Most of these are from Hitchin and neighbourhood, in the county of Sussex, but some are from Persigny, France, and an exceedingly valuable specimen of celt in horn socket, is from one of the ancient lake dwellings in Switzerland.

Mr. Ransom's gift includes also some fragments of Samian ware and two specimens of the Roman stylus (all dug up in the city of London from a depth of ten feet below the surface) three beautiful arrow-tips, from Antrim county, and one from Derry county, in Ireland.

As Mr. Ransom's donation includes nearly all we possess illustrative of the stone age in Europe, we are indebted to him for the opportunity he has afforded us to compare equivalents of the two continents.

A genuine old English "Grey-beard" pitcher from the same gentleman is, perhaps, the only one in any Canadian collection, and will not be devoid of interest to those who fondly regard all that relates to the mother-land.

Owing to an oversight, our last report contained no reference to the gift of Sheriff McKellar, of Hamilton. This consisted of a *brach*, or old-fashioned handmill made by Mr. McKellar's father and used by the first settlers in the Talbot settlement. This *brach* was mounted in a portion of a hollow log, as originally used, and was sent to the Intercolonial Exhibition, London, after its return from which it was deposited with the Institute.

Another pair of *brach* stones was presented to the museum by the sheriff's brother, Mr. Peter McKellar, of Chatham. These two sets are probably the only ones of the kind ever made in Ontario, and it is gratifying to know that they have been preserved "to point a moral and adorn a tale" for coming generations.

Brachs or querns occupy a prominent place in the Archaeological Museums of Britain and other European countries. It is not long since they were used in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, and it is said they were employed still more recently in Cape Breton.

Taken altogether, the year has not been barren of results, at least in so far as increase to the museum is concerned. Upwards of two thousand specimens have been added to our cases, and the collection is beginning to assume a character such as to warrant the belief that in a few years the Province of Ontario will possess an Archaeological Museum, which, if not what it might have been with an earlier start, will, at all events, go a long way towards placing us upon an equal footing in this respect with other progressive nationalities.

It is n
Legislature
already in o
rate of incre
the museum.

Just in
popular, and
in the numb

Two of
situation on
public at reas
are totally
throughout t
tioned.

I am no
to you town
or uses of
hitherto bee
not a few v
cation of alm
is that regard
served in abo
thrown upon
for October-1
tion of Ethno
five years' sta
of Natural H
great pains to
the traditions

Our kno
and various an
given in the a
cative of some
in such object
and perforated
put into them
bring destruct
thing relating
and it agrees
some way conn

It is unne
beliefs. It is
dolmens of Co
belief was, no
rings and bea
amulets of a s
Scotland, is on
two and three-
the sides, and
charm for the
a "perforated
cattle from bein
past, and not v

It appears
ter names), kno
than amulets, s
ance with the fo