

"It is by no means an easy task to discover remains buried, as those of the ancient mines of Lake Superior are, in extensive and dense forests, where the explorer can only see a few rods, or perhaps yards, around him; and where there is seldom anything which rises sufficiently high above the surface to attract the eye. They are, for the most part, merely irregular depressions in the soil trenches—pits and cavities, sometimes not exceeding one foot in depth, and a few feet in diameter. Thousands of persons had seen the depressions prior to 1848, who never suspected that they had any connection with the arts of man; the hollows, made by large trees, overturned by the wind, being frequently as well marked as the ancient excavations. There are, however, pits of such size, as could not fail to surprise one at first view, were not the effect destroyed by the close timber and underwood with which they are surrounded." Such is the account which the author, Mr. Chas. Whittlesey, gives of the pits and cavities, the discovery or opening up of which by Mr. Knapp, agent of the Minnesota Mining Company in 1848, led to such wonderful results. It was on the Minnesota location that the existence of mines, long since wrought, was made known; and here also the most extensive works are to be found. There is a group of veins, four in number, running parallel; and on the whole four the ancients laboured. There is also a corresponding group of rude trenches for more than two miles. In giving an account of some of the tools the old miners used, I cannot do better than take Mr. Whittlesey's own description: "Not far below the apparent bottom of a trough-like cavity, where shaft No. 1 is now situated, among a mass of leaves, sticks and water, Mr. Knapp discovered a detached mass of copper, weighing nearly six tons. It lay upon a cob-work of round logs or studs, 6 to 8 inches in diameter, the ends of which showed plainly the strokes of a small axe or cutting tool, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. These marks were perfectly distinct. A piece of this wood, which I took from the mine in 1849, proved to be a species of oak, the only species known upon the range, and by some called the Spanish oak. It shrunk upon drying to about two-thirds of its size, cracking open in deep gashes, and possessed little strength. Its appearance was that of water-soaked timber, not rotted, preserving its original form. The mass of copper had been raised several feet along the foot wall of the lode on the timber by means of wedges; its upper surface and edges were beaten and pounded smooth; all the irregularities taken off, and around its outside a rim or lip was formed, bending downwards. This work had apparently been done after the miners had concluded to abandon the mass. The marks of fire on the rocks of the wall are still evident. Charcoal, ashes, and stone-mauls are