

and every detail, however minute, be noted, for it is often by little points that a decision may be arrived at ; and with the spread of civilization and cultivation of the soil, these Indian relics will soon be obliterated altogether.

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DR. SCHWEINFURTH remarks in his "Heart of Africa," that a people, as long as they are on the lowest step of their development, are far better characterized by their industrial products than they are either by their habits, which may be purely local, or by their own representations, which, rendered in their rude and unformed language, are often incorrectly interpreted by ourselves. If we possessed more of these tokens we should be in a position to comprehend, better than we do, the primitive condition of many a nation that has now reached a high degree of civilization. There are many little things that have not been subject to the modification of time or intercourse, but co-exist with an art or a contrivance. Differences that have become functional in the arts, have come down from an early period ; when they can be found, they are of the greatest value as aids in Ethnology. If we trace back many of our greatest so-called inventions, which have become actually necessary to man's advanced position, we shall find their origin, in a crude form, amongst some of the aborigines of our own or of other lands ; but which by a slight change here, an improvement there, and an adaptation to some local requirement elsewhere, no more resemble the original idea, than a caterpillar does a butterfly. The National Museum at Washington has, in the last few years, adopted a systematic plan of collecting the various industrial products, manufactures, and home accessories, of its native tribes, from all parts of the land ; and by comparison, and the connecting links of manufacture, is drawing inferences which are of material avail to the ethnologist. Pottery, as a ceramic art, matting, cloth and fabrics, as a textile art, weapons, as the artificer's art, together with many other appendages of Indian life, habits and customs, are classified, compared and debated on, with the result that, as Mr. Hough remarks, "close attention to the minor acts and arts will reveal much more than the nice measurements of man's practically unmodified skeleton." The Indian, a child of nature, took from the natural forces his earliest ideas, as did primitive men in the Old World, and adapted them to his necessities. Ignorant of the cause, he looked only to the effect of these forces, and how they could best be brought to serve his daily needs. We, of the present day, who have and utilize the effect, are more prone to trace the cause, and have to do this often link by link in the great chain of nature's handiwork. We have so surrounded ourselves with the "applied arts and sciences," and modern improvements, that we are apt to forget that