

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL COLLECTION FROM THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

INTRODUCTION.

In the archæological section of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa—the national museum of Canada—there is an interesting collection of specimens from the Thompson River region of the southern interior of British Columbia. This exhibit is typical and comprehensive enough to give a good general idea of the handiwork, or material culture of the older people who dwelt in that area, and who, it is evident, were the ancestors of the Indians now living there.

An important feature of the collection is that it is representative of the general material culture of a very much larger area than the Thompson River region: probably including the whole plateau region. The term "plateau" being used to include the interior of the State of Washington; a narrow strip to the southward of that State; the Thompson River region, and the remainder of the interior of British Columbia; and probably, the interiors of Yukon, Mackenzie, and Alaska. The archæology of this culture area is very imperfectly known, for the collections from the respective plateaus in Canada—with the exception of those from the Thompson River region—are exceedingly small.