

inhabited by a strange race of beings, but producing in abundance the necessities of life. Leaving behind him a colony of settlers, Prince Madoc, according to the same authorities, returned to Wales, equipped a larger fleet, and again set sail for the new regions of the West; but neither he nor any of his followers were ever more heard of. The general story has nothing improbable in it. If a small colony of Welshmen effected a settlement on the shores of America at that early date, their fate would be like that of the still earlier Scandinavian colonists of Vinland.* But the resemblance between the primitive Welsh and American mining tools, can be regarded as nothing more than evidences of the corresponding operations of the human mind, when placed under similar circumstances, with the same limited means. It supplies an argument, which, if pressed to all its remotest bearings, might rather seem to furnish proof of the unity of the human race, than any direct relations leading to a correspondence in the arts of such widely severed portions of the common family. It might, indeed, in some sense, be fitly classed among the instinctive, rather than the imitative operations of human ingenuity when called into action to accomplish similar purposes—instinctive operations akin to those to which alone we can refer such resemblances as that between the nest of the American blue-bird and the English thrush; and which in like manner, from the first rude arts of the primitive savage, produces the bone-lance, or the flint arrow-head, wherein we trace the same type, whether we look for them in the British barrow of ante-Christian times, or among the recent productions of the Polynesian or Red Indian artificer.

The evidences of ancient mining operations in the Ontonagon district have been observed over an area of several miles in extent, and have evidently been abandoned for unknown centuries. A forest of primeval growth seems to cover the whole region, and the mind realizes with difficulty the conviction that, in the trenches traversed by the roots, and cumbered with the fallen trunks of giant trees, we have the indubitable proofs of an ancient race of miners having wrought for the same mineral treasures which are now once more attracting a population to the solitudes of the forest.

A writer, whose narrative Dr. Schoolcraft has embodied in his His-

* When the poet Southey made the adventures of the Welsh Prince the subject of an epic, the knowledge regarding even the older regions of this continent was sufficiently vague to sanction any theory, and he accordingly wrote in 1805, "Strong evidence has been adduced that Madoc reached America, and that his posterity exist there to this day, on the southern branches of the Missouri, retaining their complexion, their language, and in some degree their arts." Ten years later, however, the poet added a foot-note, to state, that these "Welsh Indians" had been sought for in vain on all the branches of the Missouri, as well as elsewhere in all the explored regions of America.