

there were any persons versed in glass-making. I have heard Indians say, with uncertainty, that in former times they found glass in the hills, and pounded it for their beads; meaning perhaps that they used natural glass, which may be found where lignite beds have taken fire, and elsewhere on the Upper Missouri. In view of all these facts, I have conjectured that they had the art of making glazed earthen ornaments before the whites came among them; and that when they saw the brilliantly-colored beads of the traders, they conceived the idea of improving their art by using these beads. If they ever possessed the art of making glass *de novo*, there is no record, tradition, or other evidence of it that I have been able to find.

One of many reasons, though perhaps an insufficient reason, for believing the art to be of no recent origin among them, is that they used the triangular pendants, not as ornaments only, but as evidences of betrothal, as long ago as the oldest men can remember. When a girl was promised in marriage in her infancy by her parents, as was not infrequently done, one of these pendants was tied to her forelock so as to hang down over her forehead. When the promise was fulfilled, the husband removed the pendant and threw it away.

§ 15. FOOD, ETC.—Since the introduction of various articles of European food, their diet has been somewhat changed, yet they still largely adhere to their original dietary.

Their chief food, until within the last eight or ten years, was the meat of the buffalo, or bison, which, when fresh, was cooked by roasting before an open fire, by broiling on the coals or on an extemporized wooden broiler, or by boiling. Their meat was boiled in earthen pots before brass and iron pots were introduced by the whites. They knew the different effects produced by putting the meat down in hot and in cold water, and employed the former method when they did not want soup. On hunts, they sometimes boiled the meat in skins, heating the water with hot stones, after the method employed by the Assinniboines, which has given the latter tribe its name of Stone-cookers. Sometimes they chopped the fresh meat fine, put it in a piece of bowel, and thus made a sort of