

only was the native copper wrought in ancient times in the Lake Superior Regions : but along its shores, and on the banks of its navigable rivers, there existed manufactories where the native artizan fashioned the metal into tools and weapons for war and the chase.

This would seem to be still further confirmed by the evidences of permanent settlement at some former period described as still visible at the mouth of the Carp river, where those relics of its ancient manufactures were found. The foundations of old structures are still clearly traceable. The outlines of the buildings can be made out by the ridges of clay remaining, and in places the ruined masonry seems to show where the hearth had stood. Such traces, I was assured, suffice to indicate that whole ranges of dwellings must have occupied the site, so that here unquestionably, at some remote period, there existed a settlement of considerable extent, and a town conveniently situated for commanding the Lake. The buildings must have been slight when compared with those which have left their mighty ruins amid the forests of Central America; but the traces which remain correspond with what might be expected of the Mound-builders of the Mississippi, and over their works has waved for unknown centuries the forest, which, by the age it lays claim to, suffices to divide that ancient and unknown past from the era of the new race of workers, who are now ransacking the mineral veins of the copper regions, and turning their metallic treasures to account for the aggrandisement of the intrusive Anglo-Saxon.

A lively interest is felt throughout the Copper regions in the relics of the ancient miners, and the modern occupants of their works manifest an intelligent appreciation of the uses of such antique remains as a means of throwing light on the history of former ages. I found a peculiar importance attached by the miners and others to the hardness of the wrought copper implements. This they contrasted, in more than one case, with the ductility of the chips and fragments of unwrought copper found along with them, as well as with the condition of the native copper when first brought from the mine, and maintained that it afforded proof of a knowledge acquired by the ancient metallurgist of some hardening process unknown to the modern copper-smith. It is well known that copper and bronze chisels are frequently found among the ancient relics of the Nile Valley, and that the paintings of Egypt exhibit her sculptors hewing out the colossal memnons of lime-stone and granite by means of yellow-coloured tools, which may fairly be assumed to be made of the copper wrought by the Egyptians in the mines of Maghara, near Sinai, so early as the reign of Suphis, the builder of the great pyra-