

the rude stone implements with which the old miners seem to have chiefly wrought.

The stone hammers, or mauls, by which these ancient workers in metal carried on their operations, consist for the most part of oblong water-worn stones, weighing from ten to twenty pounds. Around the centre of these a groove has been artificially wrought, for the purpose of fastening a handle or withe of some kind, with which to wield them. Some of the specimens that I saw were worn and fractured as if from frequent use; many are found broken, and they are met with in such abundance in the neighborhood of the ancient Ontonagon diggings, that a deep well was pointed out to me, constructed, as I was assured, almost entirely of the stone hammers picked up in its immediate vicinity. I was greatly struck with the close resemblance traceable between these rude mauls of the ancient miners of Ontonagon and some which I have seen obtained from ancient copper workings discovered in North Wales.

In a communication made to the British Archæological Institute by the Hon. William Owen Stanley, in 1850,* he gives an account of an ancient working broken into at the copper mines of Llandudno, near the the Great Orme's Head, Caernarvonshire. In this were found mining implements, consisting of chisels, or picks of bronze, and a number of stone mauls of various sizes, described as weighing from about 2 lbs. to 40 lbs., rudely fashioned, having been all, as their appearance suggested, used for breaking, pounding, or detaching the ore from the rock, and pertaining, it may be presumed, to a period anterior to the Roman occupation of Britain. These primitive implements are stated to be similar to the water-worn stones found on the sea-beach at Pen-Mawr, from which very probably those most suitable for the purpose might have been selected. Mr. Stanley also describes others precisely of the same character, and corresponding exactly with those found on the shores of Lake Superior, which had been met with in ancient workings in Anglesea. Were we, therefore, disposed to generalize, as some of the archæologists of this continent are prone to do, from such analogies, we might trace in this correspondence between the ancient mining implements of Lake Superior and of North Wales, a confirmation of the supposed colonization of America, in the twelfth century, by Madoc, the son of Owen Gwynnedd, king of North Wales, who, according to the Welsh chroniclers, having been forced by civil commotions to leave his native country, set sail with a small fleet in 1170, and directing his course westward, landed, after a voyage of some weeks, in a country

* Archæological Journal, vol. vii, p. 68.