

moreover it is found where the soil is positively bad, thus showing it is a hardy perennial. It may be converted into an annual by parting the roots in the Autumn, when it will blossom in the beginning of April, and its seeds will ripen perhaps before June. The Sanguinaria or blood-root possesses several names derived from its leading peculiarities and uses. It was called blood-wort, blood-root, beth-root and sanguinaria, from the circumstance of its fleshy roots pouring forth a bright red or orange juice when broken asunder. This juice was used as a dye and a paint by the Indians to smear their bodies, and hence called Indian paint, Indian Turmeric, Puceoon, Ked Puceoon, Red Root, &c.

Canada is essentially the country of the Blood Root, hence its name, especially as it was first discovered in that part of the British Empire. It grows in abundance throughout the woods of Canada, and is found plentifully on the shores of Lake Superior. I believe it will be found as far eastward as Labrador and to the north of the Saskatchewan, on the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. I have seen it growing in various parts of Canada, at distances the most remote. My friend Dr. Henry G. Wright has seen it at Grosse Isle, and it extends much further eastward. I believe that Pursh found it on the peaty soil of Anticosti. It exists throughout the United States as far as Florida. According to the late Mr. Peter Dease, of Montreal, it is unknown at Hudson's Bay, a fact corroborated by Sir John Richardson. The extreme western range of the plant probably extends to the Oregon Territory and California.

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A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Gibb for his valuable paper.

Principal Dawson exhibited a number of specimens of flint implements and fossils from St. Acheul, near Amiens, and made some observations on the mode of their occurrence in the "high level gravel," in the valley of the Somme. He referred to the investigations of Boucher de Perthes and Prestwich, and quoted a portion of the description of the locality by the latter geologist. He stated the following conclusions derived from an examination of the locality and of the specimens, more especially those in the collection of Mr. Prestwich:

1. The implements cannot be considered so much a characteristic of a particular age as of a particular work. They are not spears or arrows, or hatchets, but picks and diggers, adapted for digging in the earth or hollowing wooden canoes. A consideration of the implements of the American stone age renders it in the highest degree improbable that the makers of these tools did not possess also stone arrows, spears, knives, and other implements. The application of the idea of an older and ruder stone age to such implements is gratuitous, and contradicted by American antiquities.

2. There are some reasons to induce the belief that these implements have been used in driving small horizontal adits into the gravel beds of St. Acheul, in search of flints. In this case they may not be of great antiquity, though certainly older than the Roman occupation of Gaul.

3. They may have been deposited with the gravel. In this case they belong historically to a very ancient period, though geologically modern; and at the time when they were deposited the climate of France must have been more severe than at present, its level different, its surface covered with dense forests, inhabited by several great quadrupeds now extinct, and the River Somme must have been much larger than at present, and must have spread its waters over a wide plain, in which the St. Acheul gravel constituted a bank or point, inundated in times of flood, and perhaps too by the aborigines as a place for making canoes.

4. Before either of the two theories above stated can be finally accepted, much more thorough investigations must be made, and also careful topographical surveys of the whole district. In event of the view last mentioned being sustained, the question of absolute time required will still be difficult to determine, since the causes of erosion and deposition in operation at the period in question must have been very dissimilar from those now in action, and other unknown causes, whether sudden or gradual in their operation, must have intervened to produce the present state of the country. In this case, however, there would be a strong probability that the *Rhinoceros tichorhinus* and the Mammoth had continued to exist in Europe down to the period of the implement making.

It is much to be desired that a series of systematic excavations in these gravels, and a geological and topographical survey of the whole basin of the Somme should be undertaken by some scientific body in France or England, as it may require many years to enable individual explorers to obtain the data required to settle the questions that have been raised in connection with these deposits.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Dawson for his valuable paper was passed by the Society, after which the meeting adjourned.—*Montreal Gazette*.

—At a meeting of the New York Association for the Advancement of Science and Art, in Cooper Institute, October 16th, a deeply interesting paper was read by Mathew Hale Smith, Esq., on the "Evidences of the Hebrew Origin of the North American Indian," which well deserves republishing in full for the benefit of all who are interested in the subject.

The following remarks were made by Mr. J. Disturnell, relating to the present condition of America and the native Indians:

"On the continent of America man is found to exist, in different degrees of civilization, from the 75th of north latitude to Tierra del Fuego, 55 south latitude; on the extreme north being found the dwarfed Esquimaux, and on the south the full-grown Patagonian Indians. For three or four hun-

ded years this vast stretch of country, running through 130 degrees of latitude, has been known and peopled mostly by different European nations. Danish America or Greenland, Russian America, and British America, lying on the north, each extend within the Arctic circle.

"The United States, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, has been mainly settled by the Dutch, English, Irish, French, Swedes, Norwegians, Germans, and Africans—there now being only about 400,000 native Indians. Cuba, Mexico, Central America, and most of the South American republics, have been settled by Spaniards and Africans; Brazil by the Portuguese and Africans.

"The whites and the blacks embrace all of the known modern origin of the inhabitants now living on the American continent, estimated at from 55 or 60,000,000 souls. Of the native American copper-colored race there is estimated to be 10 or 15,000,000 living in North and South America, whose origin is doubtful, their antiquity running back many hundred years before the discovery of America by Columbus. A late writer says, 'The aboriginals of all America have a striking similarity. From Tierra del Fuego to Labrador they are of a swarthy copper color, with straight hair, small ears, prominent cheek-bones, thick lips, long eye, and gloomy aspect. These are considered as distinct families of the human race, though intermixed in every shade.

"Perhaps the most degraded portion of the North American Indians may be found in California and Oregon, while further to the north, along the Pacific coast in British America and Russian America, there are to be found a more intelligent people, who are good fisherman, hunters, and carvers in wood, stones, and metals, and that in many respects they assume an Asiatic character in their mode of living and rude drawing and carving of different kinds of ornaments.

"On Queen Charlotte's Island, lying midway between Vancouver's Island and the Sitka Archipelago, the native population, named Skittagets, are described as the best specimens of the Indian race, apt to adopt the customs of civilized life, ingenious and industrious, and naturally white as the inhabitants of the south of Europe; no doubt partaking of an Asiatic cast of character, although possibly more or less removed from the Hebrew origin. One singular fact that exists in regard to the Indian race in America is that of the slight difference in color when living in the Arctic or the equatorial regions, while in Africa and Asia the very black natives are found near the equator."—*Phrenological Journal*.

—The American Geographical and Statistical Society was incorporated by the State of New-York, in 1854. Its object is the advancement of geographical and statistical science by the collection and diffusion of these branches of knowledge; and although in its infancy it has already taken rank as a useful and efficient institution. Among its members are many gentlemen of high scientific and literary attainments, both in New-York city, where its rooms are located, and elsewhere, and it has for its honorary and corresponding members gentlemen, both in this country and abroad, of the first literary and scientific excellence. The Society has on foot at present the following measures, among others:

A collection of standard and authentic maps and books relating to geography and statistics, to be kept for public use under proper regulations. This collection now numbers over 10,000 volumes.

The holding of meetings, monthly (July, August, and September excepted), for the reading of valuable papers, with scientific discussions, personal narrations of explorers, travellers, etc. These meetings are open and free to the public, and the proceedings of the Society therein are published to the world. Interesting matter relating to the subjects comprehended by the association is solicited from all parts of the globe. Another object is the origination and assistance in explorations of undescribed regions and in voyages of discovery.

Valuable contributions to the library and funds of the Society have been received from time to time, from and through the different departments at Washington, and the department of State has shown a special interest in its welfare by recommending it to the notice of foreign powers and the foreign agents of the government.

The Society is now seeking to raise a fund of \$10,000, by subscriptions, with which they contemplate taking suitable rooms, and fitting them up properly as a library, where will be afforded to all the privilege of consulting its books and maps. The Society has also in view the establishment of a permanent fund of \$100,000, to be raised in the same manner, the income of which is to be applied to the extension of geographical and statistical information, and the carrying into practical effect any undertaking which may be considered worthy of accomplishment.

It is hoped that the amount, \$10,000, will be speedily made up, and the laudable purpose of the Society in opening their extensive and valuable collection of books, maps, and other geographical matter to the public be carried into effect without delay.

Gentlemen of means now have an opportunity of subscribing to the library project, and may soon have the opportunity to enroll themselves as patrons of the permanent fund, as the subscriptions therefor will ere long be opened.—*Id.*