

an account thirty-three years ago, at a time when no traders or other white people had been among the Mandans to have taught them so curious an art."* It is surprising that Mr. Catlin, after reading the above-cited passages from Lewis and Clarke (and he leaves us to infer that he has read them), could state that the art of making these beads was confined to the Mandans; that it was unknown to the traders; that it was beyond doubt introduced by civilized people; and that no traders or other whites had been among these Indians before the time of Lewis and Clarke's visit.

The art of making these ornaments would appear to be old; yet the process as it existed in 1804 was evidently in part recent, since the Indians obtained the glass which they used from the whites. I have been informed by the Indians that in old days the art flourished among the Arickarees as well as among the Mandans; and certainly at the present day the Arickaree women understand it. I had two of the triangular pendants made *to order* in 1870, by an Arickaree woman, to whom I furnished the blue glass necessary. When I gave instructions to have the articles made, I was invited to witness the process, but circumstances prevented me from doing so. One of these pendants was sent to the Smithsonian Institution. It is strange, if true, that these Indians should have obtained their knowledge of this art from the Snake Indians, a ruder and equally remote tribe. It is also strange, and undoubtedly true, that in 1804, as well as now, they did not make their glass, but obtained it ready-made, and merely fused it for their purposes, obtaining it, doubtlessly, from the whites. It is strange that within a few years after glass beads of European manufacture were first introduced among them, and when such beads must have commanded a high price, they should pulverize them and use the powder in making ruder and more unsightly articles after their own design. But it is not probable that they should have learned such an art from civilized people prior to 1804, when they had as yet seen but few whites, and when the whites they had seen were mostly rude Canadian frontiersmen, among whom it is not reasonable to suppose

* North American Indians, vol. ii, p. 201.