

me one of twenty pounds. They were used to manufacture this metal into spoons and bracelets for themselves. In the perfect state in which they found it, it required nothing but to be beat into shape."\* On a subsequent occasion, in the following year, Mr. Henry again visited the same region, "On my way," he says, "I encamped a second time at the mouth of the Ontonagon, and now took the opportunity of going ten miles up the river, with Indian guides. The object which I went most expressly to see, and to which I had the satisfaction of being led, was a mass of copper, of the weight, according to my estimate, of no less than five tons. Such was its pure and malleable state that with an axe I was able to cut off a portion weighing a hundred pounds."† This object, which thus attracted the adventurous European explorer nearly a century ago, has since acquired considerable celebrity, as one of the most prominent encouragements to the mining operations projected in the Ontonagon and surrounding districts. These notices, moreover, are interesting as showing to what extent the present race of Indians were accustomed to avail themselves of the mineral wealth of the great copper regions.

The details of another, and in some respects more interesting discovery, than that which was brought under my notice at Ontonagon, were communicated to me in reply to the inquiries made while there. This took place, at a still more recent date, at a locality lying to the east of Keweenaw Point, in the rich iron district of Marquette. There, not far from the mouth of the river Carp, in what appeared to be the ancient bed of the stream, and about ten feet above the present level of its channel, various weapons and implements of copper have been recently found. Large trees grew over this deposit also, and the evidences of a remote antiquity seemed not less obvious than in that of Ontonagon. The copper relics included knives, spear or lance-heads, and arrow-heads, some of which were ornamented with silver. One of the knives was described as made, with its handle, out of a single piece of copper. It measured altogether about seven inches long, of which the blade was nearly two-thirds of the entire length, and of an oval shape. It was ornamented with pieces of silver attached to it, and was inlaid with a strip of silver from point to haft. Along with these relics were also found numerous fragments, or chips and shavings of copper, some of which were such as, it was assumed, could only have been cut by a fine sharp tool; and the whole sufficed to indicate even more markedly than those at Ontonagon, that not

\* Henry's Travels and Adventures, p. 194. New York, 1809.

† Ibid, p. 204.