

Excavations made in a few ossuaries did not yield many relics, as in nearly every case openings had been made previously by the settlers, either out of mere curiosity or for the purpose of securing the copper or brass kettles that are so frequently found in graves of post-French date.

On the farm of Mr. Ed. Beecroft, lot 19, concession 8, an ossuary was opened a number of years ago, in which it was estimated that not fewer than 1,000 bodies had been deposited.

From Mrs. Beecroft we obtained an exceedingly peculiar object formed of catlinite (see fig. 27). The arrangement of the holes suggests its use as a pipe, but I am unable to convince myself that this oddly formed piece of workmanship did not serve some other purpose. It was taken from the ossuary already mentioned on the property about forty years, and had been in possession of Mrs. Beecroft the whole of that time. Iron tomahawks bearing the French stamp are plentiful in the township.

From Mrs. Adam, of Creemore, and from Mr. Rt. Loughed, Mr. John Hannah and Mr. Jas. Connor, of Glen Huron, we received a number of good specimens. Special thanks are also due to Masters Herbert and Theophilus Connor, sons of the last-named gentleman, for a donation of one stone pipe and three clay ones, all bearing good imitations of human faces.

The Institute was formerly indebted to Mr. Loughed for a great many relics that had been collected by himself and sons on the farm for a number of years.

Wm. Smith, Esq., and Mrs. Smith, of Smithdale, were particularly obliging to the representatives of the Institute, and did all in their power to make our visit both pleasant and profitable.

In July I paid a brief visit to the Tuscarora Reserve in the County of Brant.

On application to Col. J. T. Gikison, Indian Superintendent and Commissioner, that gentleman kindly permitted Chief Smith (De ka-nen-ra-neh), his assistant, to accompany us to the reserve, and to act as interpreter. Mr. Thos. Whitehead, a public school teacher from Sheffield, England, formed one of our party.

Having driven to the farm of Chief Bucke (Ska-na-wa-tih), about twelve miles southwest of the City of Brantford, the presence of the assistant superintendent secured for us a hearty welcome from the aged "Fire-Keeper" and two of his companions, all of whom were pagans and members of the Mohawk tribe.

Ska-na-wa-tih, as "Fire-Keeper" of the tribe, has entrusted to his care the wampum belts which fell to the share of the Mohawks when they abandoned their ancient hunting grounds in New York and separated from the other tribes that formed the remarkable confederacy so well known in the history of our continent as "The Six Nations," to settle on the banks of the Grand River, under the protection of the old flag.

On the announcement of our object by Chief Smith, Ska-na-wa-tih immediately consented to display his archives and give us their explanation.

Amid a clump of fruit-trees, not far from his log-house, the old chief having spread a white sheet on the ground, we seated ourselves on the grass and listened eagerly to his recital, as interpreted by Mr. Smith, of the various compacts and treaties formed between different Indian tribes, and between Whites and Indians, as recorded by the arrangement of the beads or wampum woven into belts.

Full particulars relating to these extremely interesting "documents" may be learned by reference to Hale's "Iroquois Book of Rites," where the reader will gather much more information than he could from the Indians themselves.

Nothing could exceed the courtesy of assistant superintendent, Chief Smith, who exerted himself to the utmost to forward the aims of the Institute.

Early in October I examined what, from its surroundings and the regularity of its form, was supposed by the people in the neighborhood to be a mound, on a farm near the village of Troy, in the township of Beverly.

The first view of the situation was enough to throw extreme doubt upon the probability of the earth-heap in question being a genuine "mound," and closer examination enabled me to conclude that not Archaeology but Geology must answer the question: How came this elevation here?