

through the small hole in the pot till he sees the beads assume a deep-red color, to which succeeds a paler or whitish red, or they become pointed at the upper extremity, on which the fire is removed and the pot is suffered to cool gradually; at length it is removed, the beads taken out, the clay in the hollow of them picked out with an awl or needle, and it is then fit for use. The beads thus formed are in great demand among the Indians, and used as pendants to their ears and hair, and sometimes worn round the neck.* This art is now only occasionally practiced in the village, and is mostly confined to the making of the flat, triangular pendants. I have heard the process described in much the same way as in the above quotation. From this quotation, however, which is in part ambiguous, the inference might be drawn that the ornaments, when completed, consist entirely of glass. Such is not the case in those I have seen; on the contrary, they consist of a core of baked earth covered with a thin shell of glass; and they have the appearance of having been perforated before heat was applied. But, in the matter of making the holes, the process may have been changed, or there may have been two ways of doing it.

The existence of this art among the Indians evidently greatly astonished Catlin, who gives it as one of the reasons on which he founds his theory of the Cynric origin of the Mandans. He says, speaking of the Mandans:—"In addition to this art," [pottery,] "which I am sure belongs to no other tribe on the continent, these people have also, as a secret with themselves, the extraordinary art of manufacturing a very beautiful and lasting kind of blue glass beads, which they wear on their necks in great quantities, and decidedly value above all others that are brought among them by the fur-traders." "This secret is not only one that the traders did not introduce among them, but one which they cannot learn from them; and at the same time, beyond a doubt, an art that has been introduced among them by some civilized people, as it is as yet unknown to other Indian tribes in that vicinity or elsewhere. Of this interesting fact, Lewis and Clarke gave

* pp. 125-126.