

or the greater number of the fragments be collected, and carefully packed so as to protect them from further injury, it may be quite possible to rejoin them, and so reconstruct the cranium, or such other portions as may be desired.

When ancient barrows, grave-mounds, or other sepulchral depositories, are explored with the express purpose of adding to archaeological or ethnological data, the zeal of the investigator is likely to suggest due care in prosecuting the research; but in Canada it is to be presumed that, in the great majority of cases, such remains will be discovered by chance, and their preservation from further injury in the hands of their original exhumers will be more a matter of accident than design. By and by, however, we may hope to create an intelligent interest in this department of scientific inquiry, and so find zealous explorers of the sepulchral chronicles of Canada, as well as of those of Egypt, Britain, or Central America. To such, the following additional hints, derived from practical experience, may be of some value.

In exploring any locality in search of such memorials of the past, whether it be a grave-mound, ossuary, or cemetery, that is uncovered, —the ruder instruments of excavation, such as the pick-axe and spade, should be laid aside as soon as any portion of a skull or skeleton has been exposed. The whole must then be cleared from the surrounding earth by means of some light implement, such as a garden trowel, with the assistance of the hand. In removing the earth, strict attention should be paid to any small objects contained in it: as the practice of the Indians of this continent, as well as of most other savage races, of burying weapons, implements, personal ornaments, and relics of various kinds, with the dead, is well known. And here the distinctions of sex, above referred to, become of special interest, so that it is of great importance to avoid mixing the contents of two or more graves, before the peculiarities of each are noted. With the male skeleton will generally be found the weapons of war and the chase, and the peculiar decorations of the warrior or the priest, while that of the female is accompanied with domestic implements, personal ornaments, and other relics, properly pertaining to her sex.

Numerous personal ornaments, however, which closely correspond to those used in civilized life as parts of female decoration, are reserved by the savage exclusively for his own personal adornment; and hence, an additional reason for carefully apportioning to each skeleton its accompanying relics.

In order to avoid injuring the most essential parts of the skel-