

seen many such fragments on the site. G. E. Laidlaw has found some with the same pattern in the Balsam Lake district; and it is the same pattern, or a slight modification of it, that is found on some Neutral sites.

There are persons who profess to see in the lines and dots some mysterious story, but such an interpretation can only be fanciful. The markings are merely geometrical designs, and this peculiar ornamentation is more commonly employed by the Indian tribes of the grassy plains in the west than by the tribes of the forest belt. Pipes of this kind naturally fall into two divisions,—divergent and convergent, upward, enough of each kind being found to establish the two distinct types.

The belt pattern is found in combination with the cornet (so-called) and other patterns on the same pipe. Some interesting local variations of it are also found. At one village site (No. 47, Oro Township) the row of dots underneath the lines is always omitted, and the same variation may be found in other adjacent villages. At another village in South Orillia the dots are changed into dashes; the usual pattern, which is represented above becoming



This merely decorative pattern the aboriginal pipe-maker sometimes impressed on the raw clay by drawing a cord or thong around the bowl tightly with the hands. Accordingly, some pipes of this pattern show an unfinished part of the line where the cord did not fully encircle the bowl. In many other cases they made the lines with a pointed implement of bone or wood, perhaps after partial burning, as there is no glaze in the marked lines.

The belt pattern was much in vogue in the village sites of the period about the year 1600, but it rose and fell like all fashions. It is sometimes found in connection with iron relics, but usually not, thus pointing to an earlier time, for the most part.