

blade to receive a haft is common in the more primitive forms of bronze implements found in Britain and the north of Europe. In the pure copper spear-heads of Lake Superior, it may be assumed, as a confirmation of the conclusion suggested by numerous other copper relics of this continent, that the ancient miners and mound-builders were ignorant of the arts of welding and soldering, as well as of that of smelting the metallic ores. An indentation made in the inner side of the rude socket closely resembles the device adopted for the same purpose in the class of bronze implements of ancient Europe, known as *paalstaves*; its object evidently being to present a point of resistance to the haft. The European implements, however, are made of a metallic compound, and mostly cast, thus proving a knowledge of metallurgic arts far in advance of the old workers of the metallic treasures of Ontonagon, and the copper regions of Lake Superior.

I was informed by Captain Peck, that a fourth spear-head had been found along with the above. The whole were discovered buried in a bed of clay on the banks of the river Ontonagon, about a mile above its mouth, during the process of levelling it for the purposes of a brick field. Above the clay was an alluvial deposit of two feet of sand, and in this, and over the relics of the ancient copper workers, a pine tree had grown to full maturity. Its gigantic roots gave proof, in the estimation of those who witnessed their removal, of considerably more than a century's growth; while the present ordinary level of the river is such that it would require a rise of forty feet to make the deposit of sand beneath which they lay. It is possible, however, that the original deposition of the relics may have been made in an artificial excavation, above which the pine tree struck its roots in later times, for along with the implements there were also found fragments of copper, the remains, as it might seem, of the operations of the ancient manufacturers, by whose skill these, or similar weapons and tools, were wrought on the spot.

This locality has been celebrated for the traces of its mineral wealth from the earliest date of European exploration of the Lake Superior regions. Alexander Henry, in his "Travels and Adventures in Canada, and the Indian Territories," mentions his visiting the River Ontonagon, in August 1765. "At the mouth, was an Indian village; and at three leagues above, a fall, at the foot of which sturgeon were at this season so abundant, that a month's subsistence for a regiment could have been taken in a few hours. But—he adds—I found this river chiefly remarkable for the abundance of virgin copper which is on its banks and in its neighbourhood. The copper presented itself to the eye in masses of various weight. The Indians showed