

that trades were specialized by them to a considerable extent. The expert in pipes, arrows, etc., would confine himself mainly to such occupations. As corroborative of the remark made in our last report that "to the women, in all likelihood, was allotted the making of earthen vessels," I was informed by Dr. Collins, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, that there died recently an old woman belonging to a western tribe of Indians, who was said to be the last living representative of her people possessing the art of making pottery of the genuine, old-fashioned description. A friend of Dr. Collins, who was well acquainted with the old woman, persuaded her to make for him six specimens of her art. These he distributed among his friends, one falling to the share of Dr. Collins. I had the pleasure of examining this piece, and but for its comparatively new appearance it seemed to correspond very closely in material, form and ornamentation, with those that are occasionally taken from ossuaries in Canada and the United States.

The ancient people of the lower Mississippi valley were adepts in the production of pottery. The Louisiana historian, Du Pratz, refers to this fact, remarking that he found the Natchez Indians so expert that he got them to make a set of vessels for his own use. "The women," he says, "make pots of an extraordinary size, jars with a medium-sized opening, bowls, two-pint bottles with long necks, pots or jugs for containing hair oil, which hold as much as forty pints, and finally plates and dishes in the French fashion."

Father Marquette, in the account he gives of his voyage down the Mississippi in 1673, says: "They [the Indians of Arkansas] used in cooking, large pots of earth very curiously made, and large plates of the same material, which they employed for a variety of purposes."

Mr. George P. Thurston, in the *American Magazine of History* for May, writes: "Utensils and objects of well-burned clay are found in Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and elsewhere, of varied, original and even artistic form, interesting mementoes of ancient life, but they indicate no knowledge of the potter's wheel. They are without glaze, and are but comparatively rude conceptions, fashioned by hand."

The absence of glaze here referred to was, in some measure, overcome by the Natchez, whose "red-stained pottery" is spoken of by Du Pratz, a specimen of which we now have in our collection. A black stain was also used, and vessels are occasionally found whose exteriors are ornamented with patterns consisting of both colors. There is little doubt that this staining vastly improved the serviceable qualities of the pots, besides adding greatly to their appearance, for the material so applied has filled up the pores so thoroughly that the vessels thus treated take a fair polish when rubbed, and are at all times comparatively smooth to the touch.

The following nine figures, now in our collection, represent average specimens of earthenware from mounds in Cross County, Arkansas. They formed part of Mr. C. W. Riggs' exhibit at the Cincinnati Exposition:

POTTERY.

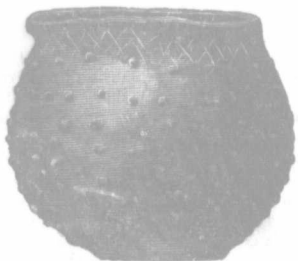


FIG. 1.

Fig. 1 is of the greatest capacity in the lot, its widest diameter being about eight inches. Considering the size its sides are thin. Although the outline is not devoid

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