

Kane informs me that, in coming down the Athabaska River, when drawing near its source in the Rocky Mountains, he observed his Assinaboin guides select the favourite blueish jasper from among the water worn stones in the bed of the river, to carry home for the purpose of pipe manufacture, although they were then fully five hundred miles from their lodges. Such a traditional adherence to a choice of material peculiar to a remote source, may frequently prove of considerable value as a clue to former migrations of the tribe.

Both the Cree and the Winnebago Indians carve pipes in stone, of a form now more frequently met with in the Indian curiosity stores of Canada and the States than any other specimens of native carving. The tube, cut at a sharp right angle with the cylindrical bowl of the pipe, is ornamented with a thin vandyked ridge, generally perforated with a row of holes, and standing up somewhat like the dorsal fin of a fish. The Winnebagos also manufacture pipes of the same form, but of a smaller size, in lead, with considerable skill.

Among the Cree Indians a double pipe is occasionally in use, consisting of a bowl carved out of stone without much attempt at ornament, but with perforations on two sides, so that two smokers can insert their pipe-stems at once, and enjoy the same supply of tobacco. It does not appear, however, that any special significance is attached to this singular fancy. The Saultaux Indians, a branch of the great Algonquin nation, also carve their pipes out of a black stone, found in their country, and evince considerable skill in the execution of their elaborate details. In the curious collection of pipes now in the possession of G. W. Allan, Esq., and including those obtained by Mr. Kane among the Indians of the north-west, are two Chipeway pipes carved by the Indians bordering on Lake Superior, out of a dark close-grained stone, easily wrought and admitting of considerable minuteness of detail. One of these, (Plate II. Fig. 2,) measuring six and a half inches long, consists of a quadrangular tube, from which rises the bowl in the shape of a human head, of very sphynx-like aspect; and with white beads inserted for the eyes; behind this an Indian seated on the ground holds his hands to each side of the head, (colossal in proportion to him,) in front is another Indian seated on a chair, and before him stands a third figure neatly carved out of the red pipe stone, while between them is a miniature barrel cut from a white stone found chiefly on St. Joseph's Island. All the figures are well proportioned and carved with considerable minuteness of detail. Some of the details in this example—the chair and the barrel,—are obviously borrowed from European models,