

them are grooved, having been used as hand-hammers only, and the interest attached to them by the modern student is scarcely more than that attached to ordinary pebbles. The fact that the farther south and more accessible country was more extensively and more skilfully worked, was probably the result of earlier discoveries, and consequently time had taught the necessity of some advancement. I consider this as evidence of their coming from the south-west, or south, perhaps, when taking into consideration the accessible and inaccessible features of the country, as the migrations must principally have been effected in canoes.

Various names have been proposed for these people, and among the most appropriate seems to be that of "*Stone-Hammer Men*," as by such works of art (though rude) they are best known. In what period they lived, and who they were have been discussed many times before. From the growth of trees over some of their workings it is calculated that part of these latter are upwards of six hundred years old, while no estimates make them more recent than three hundred years.

It is impossible to tell from the present knowledge to what race they belonged, but the best authorities regard them as belonging to the Mound Builders of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and anterior to any races of Indians that have been known to the white man as occupying the same regions.

As to the value and uses of copper, it may be stated that it must have cost the aboriginal miners more labor than gold costs us; and it has been suggested that its principal use was as a medium of trade, which had extended widely over the continent, even as far south as Georgia. Their copper appliances, though widely distributed, had a very limited marketable supply, and they were used rather for ornament than for domestic economy,—rings and

bracelets being much more common than axes, spears, or arrow-heads. This, speaking generally, is what we know of the Stone-Hammer Men.

La Garde appears to have been the first of the Jesuits who mentioned the existence of copper on the shores of Lake Superior, in a work published in Paris, in 1636.

Claude Allonez again mentioned the presence of the metal thirty years later. In 1721, De Charlevoix described the metalliferous deposits and the superstitious reverence paid to the metal by the Indians.

The first attempt of the white man to mine copper in this region was begun in 1771, by an English company, on the Ontonagon River. It was, however, a failure, and the copper was destined to remain almost unknown for another three-quarters of a century. From 1819 to 1841, several Government expeditions were sent out, and the reports of the latter date led capitalists to look to this region for successful investments. From 1841 to 1845 sixty-one mining companies were formed, of which twelve had begun operations. During fifteen months ending with November 1845, no less than five hundred and ninety-two mining locations were granted to nearly as many persons, and eventually one hundred and eleven companies were formed, but many of them found that they had mining-permits without mineral. After 1849, confidence was based on a firmer basis.

The geological formation of the rocks in which the copper occurs is peculiar to itself, and has been named on the South Shore, *Upper Copper-Bearing Series*, while, on the North Shore, Prof. Bell (of the Canadian Geological Survey) has given the appellation of *Nipigon Series* for the equivalent rocks. The exact horizon, geologically speaking, is not known, owing to the absence of organic remains, only one obscure fossil having