

Lower Thompsons. Pipe tomahawks, and other steel or iron tomahawks and hatchets of different shapes, were used in recent times, being procured from the Hudson Bay Company and the Okanagan.

A coat of mail was sometimes made in the form of a cuirass. It consisted of four boards an inch and a half thick, two for the front and two for the back, which

reached from the collar-bone to the hip-bone. These boards were laced together with buckskin, and the whole covered with thick elk-hide. A vest of armor was made of narrow strips of wood from half an inch to an inch in thickness (Fig. 253) or of rods (Fig. 254), and went entirely around the body. The strips of wood were placed vertically, and laced together with bark strings. This vest reached from the collar-bone to the hip-bone, and was held over the shoulders by means of thongs. Such vests of armor were generally covered with one or two thicknesses of elk-skin, with a cut fringe around the bottom, and painted with animal and geometrical designs, according to the dreams of the owner. Some of them were also ornamented with feathers attached to the bottom or shoulders. Another kind of armor was in the form of a tunic of elk-hide, that reached about halfway to the knee. The sleeves

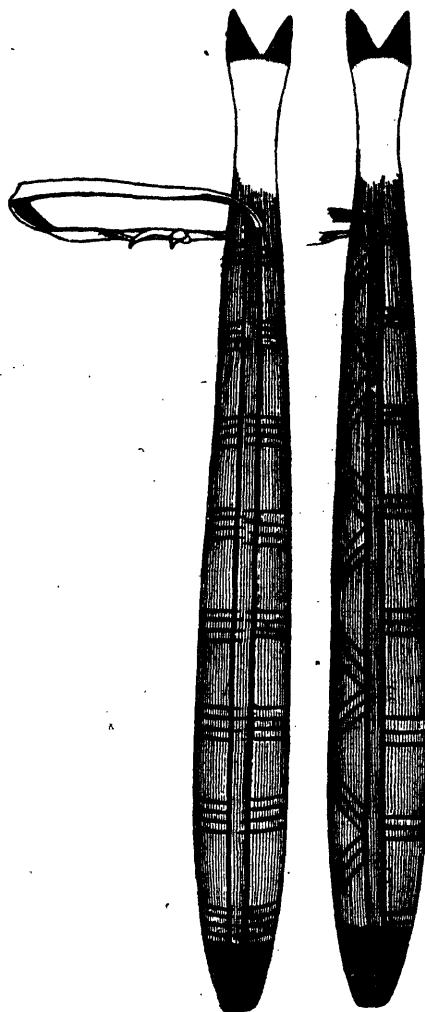


Fig. 251 (1878). Birch-wood Club. $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.

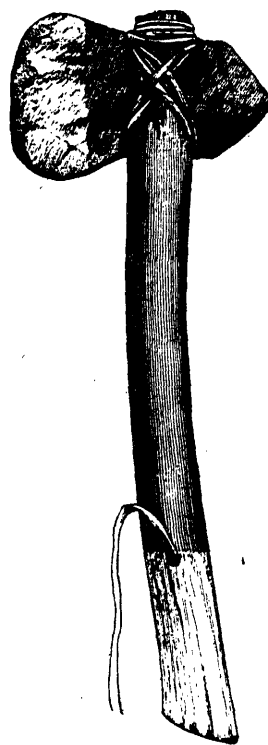


Fig. 252 (1878). Tomahawk. $\frac{1}{2}$ nat. size.

came to the elbows. Before being used, it was soaked in water, and was then said to be perfectly arrow-proof. It must then have also been of enormous weight.

Shields were made of wood, and covered with the hide of some large animal, such as the elk, buffalo, or bear; or they consisted of two or three thicknesses of hide only. They were small, circular, and flat in shape, being probably not over two feet in diameter, ornamented with elk-teeth, hair, and feathers, generally the last-named. The large copper kettles which the Indians bought from the Hudson Bay Company were beaten out, polished, and made into small circular