

NOTES TO VOL. XV

(*Figures in parentheses, following number of note, refer to pages of English text.*)

1 (p. 41).—See Brébeuf's detailed and picturesque description of the Feast of the Dead (vol. x., pp. 279–307). Cf. Sagard's account of this solemnity (*Voy. Hurons*, part 1., chap. xxii.); also Yarrow's *Mortuary Customs among N. Amer. Indians* (Smithsonian Institution, 1880).

2 (p. 57).—Chief among the offensive weapons of the North American Indians were the bow and arrow. Though still used to some extent, among various tribes, they have been mainly superseded by the firearms of the whites.

The bows used among various tribes are divided by Mason into three classes,—“self,” or plain (made of one piece), backed (with sinew or veneers), and compound (of two or more pieces of wood fastened together). Those of the first class characterize the region east of the Rocky Mountains and south of Hudson's Bay. The material of the bow was generally wood, of the hardest and most elastic kind obtainable in any given area,—oak, ash, hickory, etc.; or, in Canada, maple, birch, spruce, cedar, and even osier. The elasticity and toughness were increased, especially in the softer kinds of wood, by various processes—scraping, rubbing down, dipping in oil, and heating before a fire, and sometimes boiling. The bowstrings were made, sometimes from fibers of hemp or similar plants; sometimes from strips of rawhide twisted together, or intestines of animals; but most often from sinews. Usually, the Indian wore on the left wrist, as a guard against the bowstring, a band of rawhide two or three inches in width.

The arrow was composed of a shaft of reed or wood, feathered at one end, and armed at the other with a head—sometimes of bone, horn, or wood; sometimes of shell, or copper; but perhaps oftenest of flint, quartz, or slate; for these, after the coming of white men, were often substituted iron arrow-points of European manufacture. These arrowheads were sometimes barbed, and sometimes serrated. All these parts were bound together with the sinews of animals, which, shrinking as they became dry, held all firmly in place. In some cases, pine-pitch was also used for the same purpose.