The preparation of this paper is undertaken at the urgent solicitation of the editor of this work. The limits into which it is necessary to condense the facts, and the deductions therefrom, are unavoidably contracted. To fully elucidate the subject, and to present the comparative proofs, would require a work of many pages, and involve an amount of labor that could be only given by those who have at their disposal the time to devote to the most fascinating study of the day—the prehistoric races of man. This will be more fully appreciated when the general statement is made, that the traces which the ancient copper miners of Lake Superior have left of the work performed by them, indicate an intelligent and industrious race; that their mining labors extended through centuries of time; that there was a general movement to the southward, through a vast number of years, of the greater portion of the people; that on the route of this transition they have left a wonderful record of their works, proving an advancing and increasing intelligence, indicated by the ancient mounds throughout the United States, and the ultimate achievement, in the erection of massive structures of Mexico and Central America. This advancement is also indicated in the lesser arts, in the gradual improvement in the numbers, forms and embellishments of the utensils of the household, and of ornaments for the person. Therefore, treating the subject with the brevity required, the writer will make no excuse for the use of postulates, while at the same time feeling confident that sufficient connected proofs exist to warrant the assumption that they may be made.

On the south shore of Lake Superior the works of the ancient miners extend over a district of country comprising what is known as the Trap Range, having a length of one hundred and fifty miles through Keweenaw, Houghton, and Ontonagon counties, with a varying width of from four to seven miles. They also wrought the copper deposits of the Trap Range of Isle Royal, covering an area of about forty miles in length by an average of five miles in width. Their mining operations were crude and primitive. The process was to heat the embedding rocks by building fires on the out-crops of the veins or belts, to partially disintegrate the rocks by contraction produced by the sudden throwing on of water,