

Prehistoric Copper Implements

By Rev. Edmund F. Slafter

Gentlemen of the Society:—An examination of your *Reports and Collections*, issued within the last few years, reveals an extraordinary progress in the objects which your organization was designed to promote. This is eminently true of the department of prehistoric remains. Of stone implements you report in 1876, as belonging to the Society, six hundred rollers, pestles, knives, scrapers, awls, pikes, and anomalous forms; three hundred and sixty-five axes of various sizes and descriptions; about fifty pipes and perforated ornaments, and nearly eight thousand spear, lance and arrow-heads, making in all over nine thousand pieces, representing, we may well suppose, most of the occupations, if not all, in which a rude and uncultivated people could have been engaged.

The collection constitutes a volume of history, whose study, unaided by any other sources of information, may reveal to us a very satisfactory general knowledge of the habits and mode of life of the people by whom they were made and used. As they were all found within the limits of your own State, and the places and circumstances of their discovery are for the most part recorded, they constitute a local history of special and peculiar value.

But this array of stone implements, so numerous and in so fine

*This open letter to the Wisconsin Historical Society was printed in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, for January, 1879. It is here reproduced without alteration of the text. The note numbered 11, has been added by the author.