

all matters of historical inquiry, we can well afford to "make haste slowly."

It is obvious that the question, as to who were the makers and users of these implements, must be finally settled by two lines of evidence. The one will relate directly to the prehistoric copper utensils themselves, and from them will seek to determine the character, capacity, and progress in civilization of the people who manufactured and used them. The other will relate to the testimony that may be found in the journals of early European explorers or colonists showing that implements of copper were in use or were made by the Indians then found inhabiting the country. The latter class of evidence, of course, is complete today, and to obtain it we have only to examine the documents or journals in question. The former class is in the process of accumulation. The collection of prehistoric coppers is probably now incomplete. Not only a greater number, but a far greater variety, and even new kinds or classes of implements may be brought to light. If utensils shall hereafter be discovered, designed for new, curious and more complicated uses, such as always accompany an advanced stage of civilization, it is plain that such discoveries will throw new light upon this interesting and historically important question, and we may be forced to the conclusion, in such an event, that a race superior to the Indian was once in possession of the country, by whom these copper implements were used, and by whose superior skill and ingenuity they were made.

But if no further discoveries are made, if no new classes of implements are found, then, as the matter now stands, I think the following considerations will have a decisive bearing on the final disposition of the question.

By a careful comparison of the copper and stone implements, it will be seen that they are essentially identical in kind. The same class, which we find in copper, we find also in stone. If there be any exception, it must be in one or two small utensils denominated "borers" or "piercers," which are too delicate to be useful in stone, and were easily supplied by the Indians in bone or very hard and tough wood.² It is a fair and logical inference, I

² Vide "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley" by Squier and Davis, *Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*, Vol. 1, p. 220.