

know the Indian did do, and what he must have done, had he been the manufacturer of the copper implements.

It does not, therefore, seem to me to be an act of credulity to believe that the Indian, who occupied the territory of your State when the continent was first visited by Europeans, was capable of manufacturing the copper implements which have been recently found, by shaping them under the hammer, or by casting them in moulds.

But another line of evidence, bearing upon the decision of this question, and to which I have already alluded in the early part of this paper, relates 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 inhabiting the country.

The early English explorers, Sir Martin Frobisher, John Davis, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and others, made their land-falls in high latitudes. They found the Esquimaux clothed in skins of wild beasts, with boats and huts made chiefly of the same material, but they report no copper implements as found among them.

The French explorers were the first to penetrate the gulf and river of St. Lawrence. Jacques Cartier, in 1534, discovered the Bay of Chaleur, Gaspé, and the region about the island of Anticosti, and took home with him to France two natives of the country. The next year, 1535, on his second voyage, he advanced up the river as far as Montreal, passing the winter, however, near Quebec. On his way up the gulf, when somewhere between Anticosti and Tadoussac, his two Indians, who were returning with him to their home, informed him that they were then at the beginning of Saguenay, and from that country came red copper.

Before proceeding further, it is important to obtain as clear an idea as possible of the country which the Indians called Saguenay. The geographical lines of the Indian were exceedingly indefinite. Where there were no natural divisions, as lakes or rivers, the line that separated one country from another was never clearly fixed in his mind, nor was it important that it should be. What he called Saguenay was a vast territory beginning on the St. Lawrence below Tadoussac, embracing that watered by the river bear-