

had indeed no occasion to do so. This is the only point, in accounting for the origin of the prehistoric copper implements, it will be observed, which is not fully covered by the evidence derived from the early explorers in the citations which I have made. But, if the Indian potter could shape clay into jugs, kettles, bowls and vases, we can hardly doubt that he possessed, likewise, the mechanical ingenuity and skill to devise and construct moulds for casting implements, at least in the very simple forms in which specimens have thus far been found. If this be admitted, we are led to the conclusion, as the evidence now stands, that the origin of the copper implements must be referred to the American Indians.

As a corresponding member of your Society, of many years standing, I am sure I need offer no apology for bringing to your notice and to that of others interested in the subject, the considerations contained in this paper, which I have done with the hope that they may be useful in solving a question of great interest to all students of American history.

Boston, January, 1879.