

the more northern Indians, in their intercourse with their southern neighbors, may have learned the art from them. They had overcome whatever difficulty there may have been in procuring crucibles, as the skillfulness of their productions sufficiently attest. The historian, Gomara, states: "They will cast a platter in a mould with eight corners, and every corner of several metals—that is to say, the one of gold, the other of silver, without any solder. They will also cast a little caldron with loose handles hanging thereto, as we used to cast a bell. They will also cast in a mould a fish with one scale of silver on its back, and another of gold; they will make a parrot of metal so that his tongue shall shake, and his head move, and his wings flutter; they will cast an ape in a mould so that both hands and feet will stir, and holding a spindle in his hand, seeming to spin—yea, and an apple in his hand, as if he would eat it. Our Spaniards were not a little amazed at the sight of these things, *for our goldsmiths are not to be compared to theirs.*"

Thus we see that the Mexican natives cast copper implements three hundred and fifty years ago. Some of the specimens found in Wisconsin show flecks of silver, proving conclusively that they were laminated; for had they been cast, the silver would have become amalgamated with the copper, forming an alloy. But why not others, exhibiting the rude ridges, or raised marks, and quite uniformly lengthwise of the implement, as if formed by the imperfect joining of the moulds, have been fabricated, as by the Indians of Mexico, by melting the metal and pouring it into forms or moulds? Is it any more improbable that our ancient copper manufacturers of Wisconsin and Lake Superior should have had the knowledge of moulding, than that the Mexican tribes should have practiced such an art?

This question of the mode of fabrication of the ancient copper implements, touched incidentally in the preceding papers of Mr. Houghton and Mr. Slafter, is further discussed by Mr. Perkins, Col. Whittlesey, and Dr. Hoy.