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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CANADIAN INSTITUTE,

SESSION 1886-87.

BEING PART OF APPENDIX

TO THE

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ONTARIO,

1887.

Toronto :

PRINTED BY WARWICK & SONS, FRONT ST. WEST.

1888.

BEADS.

An almost indispensable portion of the aboriginal outfit, for both male and female, was a quantity of beads. Bloodstone or catlinite was a favourite material, but other stones of brilliant color were often substituted. We have been very fortunate in being able to procure some pieces of stone in process of being shaped into beads, and which shew us the laboriously slow methods that were necessarily employed by the Indians in fashioning these personal adornments.

We have in our cases several pieces of hard, close-grained stone partially cut into strips preparatory to being squared, or rounded, and bored. We learn from this and other specimens that the rough block of stone was first polished on two sides, so as to present even surfaces for marking off and for being ultimately sawn through by means of flint-flakes. Probably this sawing process was aided by water. When a moderately deep cut had been made on both sides, the strip was broken off, cut into lengths, and bored; but how the boring was done, when the holes required were so small, it is not quite so easy to understand. Beads, broken lengthwise, enable us to see that the process was carried on from each end; but here certainty ceases.

As this goes to press, a specimen has come into our possession from the celebrated Loughed Farm, proving that the Indians understood a method of cutting stones somewhat similar to the plan known as "plug and feather," which we employ in our quarries to-day; a series of holes has been bored in line close to each other, the necessary or unnecessary piece of material has been broken off, and then friction has been resorted to for the purpose of removing the projecting portions between the holes. Our specimen shows the work in an incomplete condition, and like all other similar specimens is especially valuable on that account.

The beads were sometimes from three to six or more times as long as they were thick; almost cubical, and frequently sometimes roughly spherical.

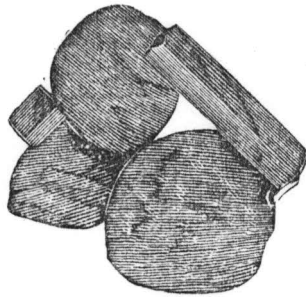


FIG. 71. Full Size.)

Fig. 71 gives a fair idea of some of the shapes most commonly found. The early French and other European traders were not slow to take advantage of the Indians' fondness for this kind of display, and they consequently made and imported enormous quantities of coarse glass beads of brilliant hues (generally red and blue) and bearing a

pattern that no doubt powerfully fascinated the native eye. (Fig. 72.) For these gew-gaws valuable peltries were readily exchanged, and in process of time the European

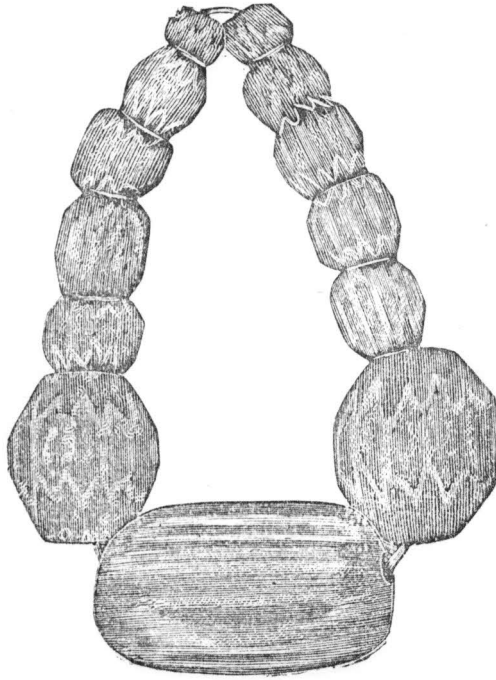


FIG. 72. (Full Size.)

article wholly displaced the ancient stone adornment. Other beads less pretentious in size and color were also brought over by the ton, and are now found in almost every ossuary of post-European origin.

Fig. 73, from Beverly, is a common form. It is made of blue



FIG. 73. (Full Size.)

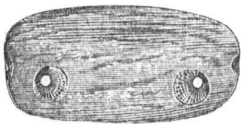


FIG. 74. (Full Size.)

Fig. 74 is a stone bead or pendant of a somewhat unusual pattern. Instead of a hole piercing it lengthwise it is provided with two holes—one at each end, bored at an angle, so as to pass through the corner.

The cut would seem to indicate that they pass through almost at right angles, but this is owing to a mistake on the part of the engraver.