



A.D. Steel Sc. N.Y.

POTOSI
alias Mine à Burton.

H. Schoolcraft Del.

A VIEW
OF THE
LEAD MINES OF MISSOURI :
INCLUDING
SOME OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
MINERALOGY, GEOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY,
ANTIQUITIES, SOIL, CLIMATE, POPULATION.
AND PRODUCTIONS
OF
MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS,
AND
OTHER SECTIONS OF THE WESTERN COUNTRY.

ACCOMPANIED BY THREE ENGRAVINGS

BY HENRY R. SCHOOLCRAFT,
CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY OF
NEW-YORK.



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and the ore contains *no silver*. The most noted and extensive mines are known under the following names :

Mine à Burton,	Mine La Motte,
Mine Shibboleth,	Mine à Joe,
Lebaun's Mines,	Mine Renault,
Old Mines,	New Diggings,
Bryan's Mines,	Mine Liberty,
Pratt's Mines,	Cannon's Mines,
Mine à Robins,	Mine Silvers,
Mine Astraddle,	Mine à Martin.

Other mines of lead are also situated in different parts of the Territory, but have not been explored. The Osage, Gasconade, Black, Strawberry, and Mine Rivers, all afford traces of lead, and there is reason to conclude that extensive bodies of it may be found.

Iron ore is found in very large bodies in Bellevue, Washington County—on Fourche à Courtois, where it is accompanied by manganese;—on Big River;—on Platten and Joachim Creeks, and on the waters of the St. Francis and Black Rivers. Zinc accompanies the lead ore at several mines in Washington County. Antimony has been found in Bellevue, and arsenic in Cape Girardeau, where there is a very extensive body of chalk, accompanied by flint. Red chalk, ochre, salt, nitre, steatite, gypsum, marl, plumbago, porphyry, jasper, chalcedony, barytes, pumice, and granite, are among the useful minerals, of less importance. Stone coal exists in large bodies at Florrissant, and in various places on the Osage River.

6. *Antiquities and Curiosities*. A number of skeletons were discovered in the fall of 1818, on the plantation of Mr. Long, on the River Merrimack, which indicate a stature unusually small, and are supposed by many to be the remains of an extinct race of human beings, of dwarfish origin, who have inhabited the country at a former period. Others have attempted to account for these appearances by a reference to the ancient customs of the North American savages, who are known to have exposed the bodies of their diseased relatives on scaffolds in the air, until all the fleshy parts were decayed and dissipated, when the bones were carefully collected, and funeral obsequies performed, attended by the most extravagant demonstrations of grief. This explanation obviates the shortness of the graves, but is opposed by the relative length of the leg bones, compared with anatomies of the present day. That all these graves, which are very numerous, were the repositories of deceased children, and young persons, would also be conclusive, did not the teeth found indicate persons arrived at the age of manhood. None of the graves exceed four feet in length.

An antique Indian grave opened on the banks of Big River, about 30 miles east of the Merrimack, produced a skeleton, which was estimated to have a stature of eight feet. It was accompanied by pottery, pipes, and *glass beads*.

Those mounds which extend in so remarkable a manner along the banks of the Ohio and its tributaries, are also to be traced up the Mississippi, and are very numerous on the *American bottom*,

ploring; that to do it effectually, such a sum would be required, and that such an expenditure would undoubtedly lead to an invaluable discovery of ore.

These mines were worked under the authority of a lease from Maj. Miller, proprietor of the soil.

SECTION VII.

Antique Glasses, discovered in Hamburgh, Niagara County, New-York.

"AN opinion is entertained by many well informed persons in the United States, that the country has, at some remote period, been inhabited by a civilized people, prior to its settlement or subjugation by the savages: and to the many evidences furnished to strengthen the opinion by the remains of fortifications, tumuli, &c. may be added the discovery of a number of pieces of glass, of singular workmanship, lately made in Hamburgh, Niagara County.

"I have been favoured with an opportunity to examine one of these glasses, and on the authority of my informant am enabled to remark, that they were taken up about two months ago from an ancient barrow in the town of Hamburgh, where they were found deposited in an earthen pot. Contiguous to this pot were also found a skull, and some other bones of the human frame, of an unusual size. This mound, or supposed repository of the dead, is

situated in an uncultivated part of the town, and several trees were growing upon it at the time the excavation was made; some of which were judged to be upwards of two feet in diameter.

"The glass which I had an opportunity to examine, (and I am informed they are all alike,) is in the form of a large barrel-shaped bead; consisting of a tube of transparent green glass, covered with an opaque coarse red enamel. Its length 9 tenths of an inch; its greatest width 6 1-2 tenths of an inch; and the bore of the tube 2 tenths of an inch. Near the circle of the bore of this tube is an aperture of the size of a large needle, perforating the tube from one end to the other. The enamel which covers the tube of transparent glass, appears to have been ornamented with painting, in figures resembling a spindle, or two inverted sections of a circle; but they are now hardly perceptible, as the bead appears to have been considerably worn.

"But the circumstance most indicative of art in the making of this bead, is a species of enamelling which has been performed both on the external and internal surfaces of the tube, previous to its being covered by the coarse red enamel. This second enamel is white, and as the external surface of the tube was not smooth, but in parrallel striae or veins, exhibits the appearance of a white vine between the green tube and the red enamel. This enamelling appears to me to have been done, not by melting on any vitreous composition, as is practised at the present day, but by the effect of calcination for some time in a low red heat. This, it is known, will deprive glass, especially green

glass, of its transparency; and render the surface white to a certain depth.

"The composition of the tube of glass, I have judged to be simply a silicious sand and an alkali; probably with a small addition of lime or vegetable ashes. It is hard, and will not receive scratches like the lead glasses, and I conclude from this circumstance that there is no lead in the composition. Its colour seems also owing to the impurity of the materials employed, like the common window and bottle glass; and is probably caused by a minute portion of iron in the state of an *oxyd*, combined with the sand and alkali.

"The red enamel covering the tube, and the pot in which these glasses were found, seem to have been constructed of similar materials, as they differ very little in colour, texture, or other external character. Probably a very fusible brick clay, highly impregnated with the oxyd of iron, and pulverized fragments of green glass, are the principal ingredients of both. The earthen pot is manifestly constructed of different materials from those employed for brown pottery at the present period. It is a more imperishable substance, of a close texture, and vitreous appearance.

"I shall not presume to speculate in opinions which discoveries of this interesting nature are calculated to create; it may, however, here be added, that the fabrication of these glasses would suppose a perfection in the arts which none of the Indian tribes inhabiting this country at the period of its discovery, had arrived to. That if introduced by the French from Canada, in their earliest com-

munications with the Indians inhabiting the western parts of this State, a sufficient time would hardly have elapsed for the growth of trees of such size as were found upon the mound from which these relics were taken. And that if not introduced by the French at the period alluded to, we must refer their manufacture back to a very remote date, and one on which Indian tradition is wholly silent."

The above was originally printed in the *Utica Patriot* (Sept. 1817,) under a fictitious signature. Since visiting the western country, I have had occasion to notice a similar discovery on Big River, in the Territory of Missouri. On opening an Indian grave (or what is considered such) on the banks of this river, several beads of glass, of a similar nature, were found. They were accompanied by many bones of the human frame, of a most extraordinary size, and which indicated a stature eight feet in height. The person appeared to have been deformed, either by birth or through accident; the right jaw bone running in a straight line from the mouth back, while the left preserved the usual curve.

This excavation was made near the banks of the river, where the soil is a rich alluvion, and covered by a heavy growth of forest trees, such as are peculiar to the richest Ohio and Mississippi bottom lands.