

it were, a new environment, the old troubles will gradually disappear, and the irascible, despondent, pessimistic, saturnine, snappish wasp will become the profound, rational, logical, tolerant philosopher. And in this latter condition age is never thought of except as one is reminded of it by whitening hairs or baldness.

Sir Crichton Browne says: "Depend upon it, the best antiseptic against senile decay is an active interest in human affairs, and that those keep young longest who love most." Oliver Wendell Holmes was presented by some ladies with a cup on his 80th birthday. In his acceptance ode he said that an empty bowl with only the perfume of love, was superior to the cup overflowing with the wine of nepenthe to soothe the aching soul of age. It is love for humanity and a desire for the improvement and betterment of mankind that makes the old heart young, and gives to old age its hale virility.

A PREHISTORIC PEOPLE.

[Chicago Tribune.]

The recent wonderful discoveries of iron, copper and silver ores in Northern Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota call attention to a fact not generally known that wise old Dr. Franklin, when arranging the treaty between this country and England, after the Revolution, so drew the boundary lines between the late hostile powers as to include in the United States the great mining regions on the southern shore of Lake Superior. In these days, when every week gives fresh information concerning the boundless wealth in iron, copper and silver of this wonderful world, the remark is often heard that the treasures here untombed are scarcely yet unlocked—so it would seem upon a cursory examination of the copper and silver mines which fringe the bleak shores of the great inland fresh-water sea. Such is, however, not the fact. There is indubitable evidence that long before the first red man hunted in the gloomy forests that girdle these wild and lonely shores—long years before the first Jesuit launched his boat upon the waves of the Gethse Gamee, a race of men, in numbers as the sands on the shores, toiled and hammered and beat the copper—not only into implements of warfare, but without doubt for transportation to other lands. A civilization must then have existed far superior to any since known among the native tribes north of Mexico. Thousands of years ago a race of people worked the copper mines in the upper peninsula. They worked the native copper and were so far advanced in the mechanical arts as to be able to handle masses of ore weighing many tons. Their implements were fashioned to do skilful work. In working the copper mines of today these implements are found at a great depth, showing that ages have elapsed since this prehistoric race existed. The geological formations bear evidence that thousands of years have passed since these people disappeared. Who were they? Whence came they? and where did they go? Their unfinished work has been laid before scientists, their tools and implements of stone and copper are to be seen in museums and

collections in Milwaukee and other cities, and yet no one can give any reliable data of the existence or extinction of these people of the long ago.

The southern shores of Superior were first explored in 1641 by two Jesuit priests. Small bands continued to explore the region until 1760. In that year Alexander Henry visited the region. He soon became familiar with the fact that copper existed in the country. He published a book on the subject and described his explorations. That a prehistoric race had worked these mines was not discovered until the middle of the present century. The ancient excavations are found in all parts of the peninsula. There is scarcely a vein of copper in the whole district that does not show evidence of ancient workings. In places they even extend in the rock from three to sixty feet. The method of mining was to heat the rock with fire and then by pouring on water and pounding with their stone hammers to disintegrate and separate the ore. A careful search of all the old records show that the Indians who were found in the country were ignorant of the mines and the uses of the metal.

In 1847 S. O. Knapp was prospecting on the range near Rockland, a small town in Ontonagon county, Michigan. He opened a test pit, the surface outcropping of copper-bearing rock giving evidence of hidden treasure, and when eighteen feet from the surface he discovered a mass of nearly pure copper weighing more than six tons. This is regarded as the most wonderful mineral discovery ever known, from the fact that the copper was almost pure and showed conclusively that it had been worked and abandoned by a prehistoric race.

This mass had been raised several feet and secured there upon timbers. These had decayed and the mass remained in its place supported by the soil. It had been hammered all over, until its surface was perfectly smooth. In this pit, as in many others, there were found great numbers of stout hammers, bits of burned wood and copper chisels. Over this mass, drawing its life from the soil, stood a hemlock tree which showed 325 distinct annual rings of growth; this was standing by the stump of a much larger tree which had grown, died, and decayed since this pit had been dug, and this mass had been raised from its bed and the brands beneath it had been burned and the soil gathered above it in the long lapse of age.

In the bottoms of all the pits or diggings large numbers of stone hammers and copper chisels are found. The hammers consist of small boulders of trap rock weighing from three to thirty pounds. A groove around the stone shows where the handle was tied on with a withe. These "diggings" are so abundant in the copper region as to cause no surprise. After the discovery of the mass of copper there were many more of a similar nature in different localities, extending over a vast area. The existence of these "ancient diggings" was suggested by depressions in the ground. Later, enormous masses of copper were found at Rockland, and for many years great wealth flowed in upon the owners of the Minnesota and National mines.

Even on the desolate Isle Royale

multitudes of hammers, etc., have been found. An old mining captain, speaking of this mystery of the ages, said to the writer that thousands and thousands of men were engaged in mining in that unknown epoch of human existence, ages before the days of the Pharaohs, or even before the birth of "Abraham Haran-Terah-Sot," the world's gray fathers." In speaking further upon the subject, this gentleman, Captain Parnell, said that something must have occurred to disgust those odd fellows—they threw down their hammers and quit work suddenly. Perhaps the question of labor and capital was even then brewing mischief; if so, it must have been a successful strike, for the toiling thousands quit work for good. Everything points to the fact that work was stopped at a moment's notice.

The six-ton mass of copper found by Mr. Knapp was afterwards, with great difficulty, raised, taken down the Ontonagon River, and sent to the Smithsonian, where it still remains if I am correctly informed. These facts heighten the interest in that fascinating excitement of exploring and prospecting for new treasures in this still wild and unknown portion of the Northwest: There can be no doubt that vast and untold wealth in silver, iron and copper yet await the energy and toil of men, backed by the capital, pluck and enterprise of other men, who have already reaped the fruits of industry in other fields. Some will win and others will fail. It might not be amiss to state that up to 1880 over \$150,000,000 of copper ore had been produced by the Michigan mine.

DEATHS.

REES.—In this city, at the residence of John Rees, at 7 o'clock p. m., Friday, June 17, of congestion of the lungs, William Rees.

GROO.—In this city June 22, at 4:30 a. m., Sarah E. Gillett Groo, wife of Isaac Groo. Born in Sullivan county, New York, March 4, 1827.

HUFFAKER.—At South Cottonwood, Jun 14th, 1892, after one day's illness, Irene Esther, daughter of Ray E. and Esther E. Huffaker, aged 2 months and 2 days.

STOWELL.—At Spring Glenn, of scarlet fever, Stella Lovin, daughter of Heber J. and Ellen Lovina Stowell, Bishop of that place; aged 2 years, 4 months and 3 days.

SMART.—On the 20th inst., at his residence, Frankley Lodge, Victoria Road, Harborne, aged 72, James Smart, brick manufacturer.—*Birmingham (Eng) Mercury, April 30th.*

ALBION.—In the Sixth-street ward, Salt Lake City, James Albion, aged 83 years, 1 month and 15 days. Formerly of Bolton, Lancashire, England. Death was caused by being run over by a horse and buggy.

PASCOE.—In this city June 22, 1892, of spinal meningitis, after one week's illness, Elizabeth L. Barfoot, wife of Francis A. Pascoe and daughter of the late Jos. L. Barfoot; born in London, England, May 2, 1838.

SMITH.—At Meadow, Millard Co., June 11th, of diabetes, Elias Smith, aged 70 years and 6 days. The deceased was born June 6th, 1822, at Stockholm, St. Lawrence Co., New York. He was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Aug. 27, 1835, and passed through all the troubles and persecutions to which the Saints were subjected in the early days. He was a brother of the late Judge Elias Smith, of Salt Lake City. He died, as he had lived, in full faith of the Gospel.