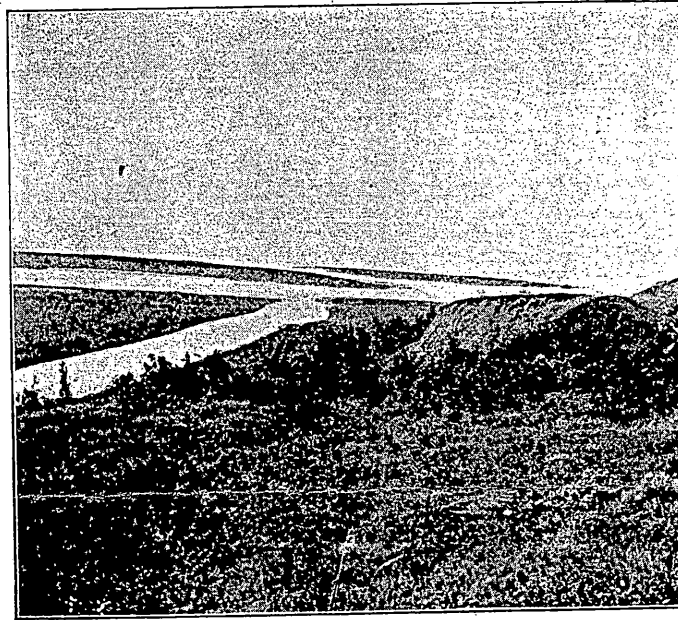


Valuable as the work of the Bureau has been in a hundred directions, it has published no work which will be of more interest to careful students of Indian language than Trumbull's dictionaries.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE.

ROXBURY, MASS., November 9, 1905.



MOUTH OF THE HEART RIVER, 5 MILES SOUTH OF MANDAN, SHOWING LOCATION OF ANCIENT MANDAN VILLAGE

PREHISTORIC MANDAN REMAINS IN NORTH DAKOTA

SIX miles south of Mandan, North Dakota, on the west bank of the Missouri River, and at that point where "Old Muddy" is joined by the River Heart, a few acres of gently sloping field, used now for grazing land, mark the site of an ancient Mandan Indian village.

At Fort Berthold, 200 miles farther north, a mere remnant of this primitive people still survives, but so thoroughly has disease done its deadly work, that the places where Lewis and Clark found them in 1804, near the mouth of the Knife River, and where George Catlin visited them in their two villages in 1832, now know them no more.

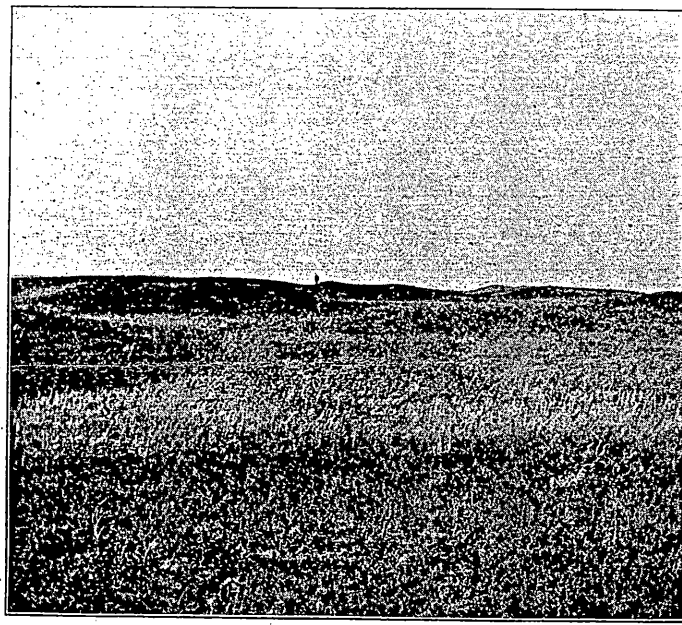
Catlin in his Letters and Notes says "that within the recollection of many of their oldest men the tribe inhabited 10 contiguous villages 15 or 20 miles farther down the river, the marks and ruins of which may still clearly be seen;" and also observes that, "even below these places and as far south as St. Louis there are many remains which clearly show the peculiar construction of the Mandan lodges." He

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GESNER, AT. RECORDS OF THE PAST, 1905; 4: 363-67. #11614

inclines strongly to the opinion, therefore, that their traditions of having occupied the country along the banks of the lower Missouri may be accepted as correct.

The village site at the mouth of the River Heart, on the Missouri, one mile above old Fort Abraham Lincoln, is, therefore, only one of several similar sites along this stream, but of those which the writer has had opportunity to examine none exhibit signs of greater age than this. The field which is gently broken by low mounds, barely 10 ft. in diameter by 3 ft. in height, each situated near a circular depression 25 ft. to 30 ft. in circumference, is admirably adapted for a camp. Behind it rises a high butte; north and south it is protected by deep ravines, old water courses grown thick with trees; while

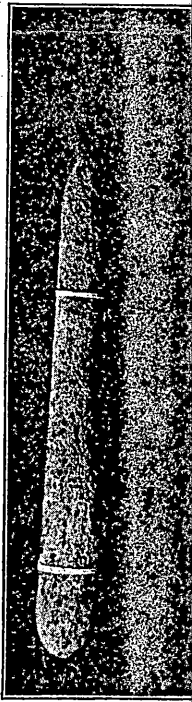


A FEW OF THE 40 INDIAN MOUNDS IN A FIELD 9 MILES NORTH OF BISMARCK, N. D.

in front is a steep 30-foot bank of clay facing the Missouri River, which sweeps southward at this point in a broad curve. An examination of a portion of this bank disclosed at one point successive strata of ash to a depth of 9 ft. These strata, composed of wood ashes, burnt and broken bones, and mussel shells and chipped flint, directly underlie the rubbish heaps. They average about 8 in. to 10 in. in width and are separated one from the other by approximately one foot of light clay soil. This bank, which is constantly wearing and caving away, is a treasure ground for relics. After a heavy rain beautiful arrowheads of pink chert, black flint, gun flint and other hard material may be picked up here. Fragments of broken pottery, with rim pieces artistically marked, lie scattered about, and small flint scrapers and narrow



FLINT ARROWHEADS NEAR



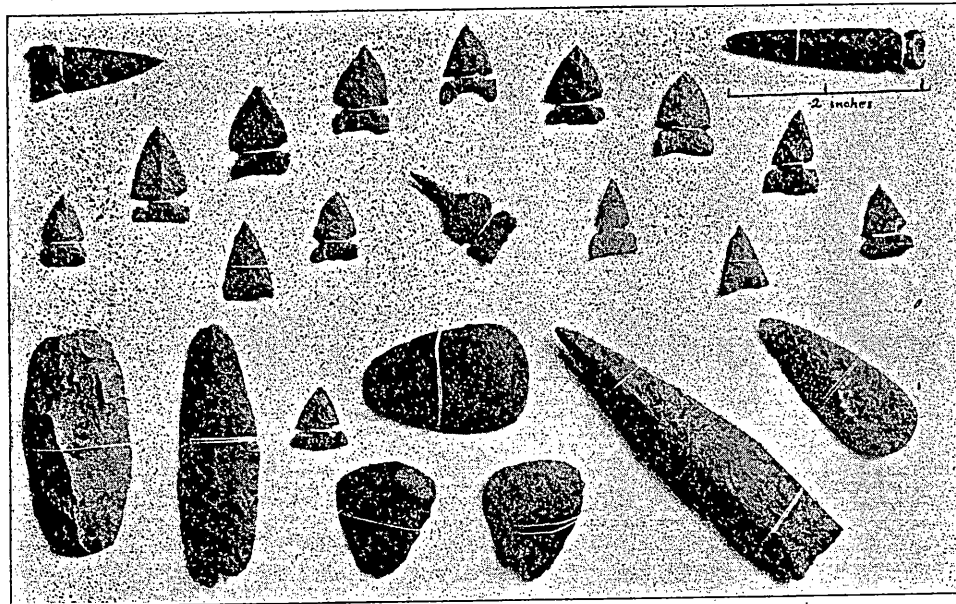
BONE "CHIPPED" ARROWHEAD NEAR MANDAN, N. D.

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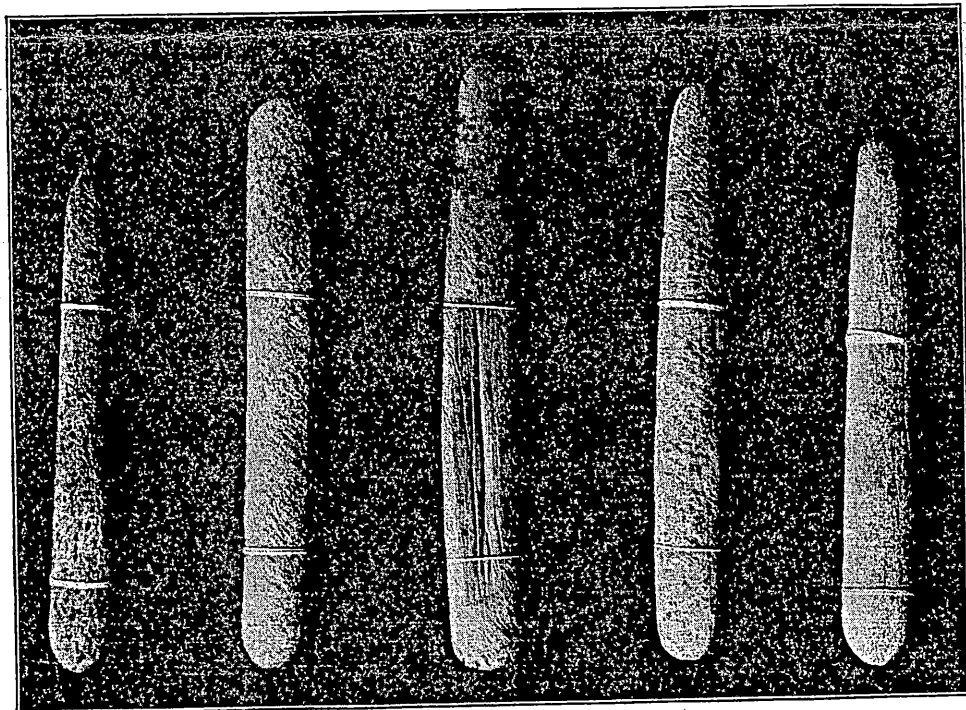
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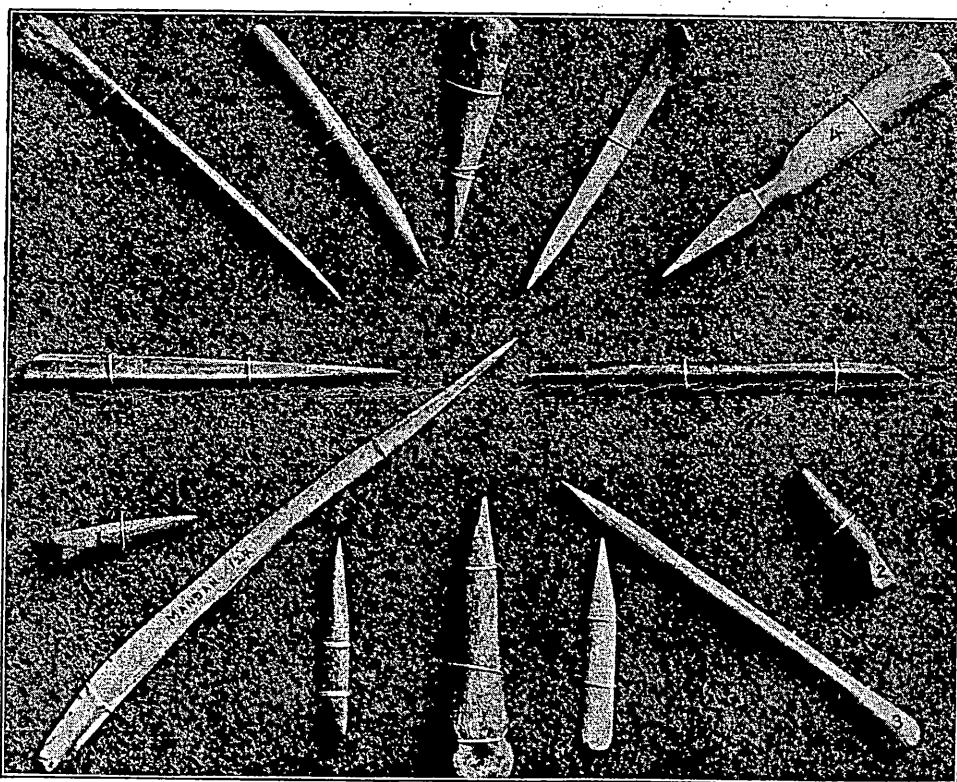
FLINT ARROW HEADS AND KNIVES FROM MANDAN VILLAGE SITE,
NEAR MANDAN, N. D., COLLECTION OF A. T. GESNER



BONE "CHIPPERS" FROM MANDAN VILLAGE SITE, 5 MILES SOUTH OF
MANDAN, N. D., LONGEST IS 6 IN. COLLECTION OF A. T. GESNER.

flint knives are not difficult to find. Amid the cracked and broken marrow bones of the buffalo, which gather in little heaps at the foot of the slope, burnt corncobs may be found. Bone awls and needles are quite common. Even bone fish hooks and whistles have occasionally been found. These latter are not unfrequently made from the leg bone of a crane, and if washed clean of earth, and properly plugged with wood for the mouth, will still do service.

The arrowheads, with the exception of those types commonly used in war, have in nearly every instance the square shank so characteristic of Mandan manufacture. They evidence great skill in their workmanship, as may be seen from the accompanying illustration.



MANDAN BONE NEEDLES, ETC., 1 AND 2 BONE ARROW POINTS, 4 MEASURES 4 IN. AND 3, 5 IN. COLLECTION OF A. T. GESNER

The presence in these rubbish heaps of bone hoes made by sharpening and cutting down buffalo shoulder-blades is evidence that agriculture was not a neglected art, and we may easily believe that the neighboring river flats of rich alluvial soil were once their fruitful fields and gardens. The customs of the Mandans are fortunately well preserved for us in Catlin's classic work on the North American Indians. Whence they came no man may ever know. They were a unique people in the day of their strength and their prehistoric monuments and specimens of art attest their antiquity.

We trust
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best of them f
FARIBAULT

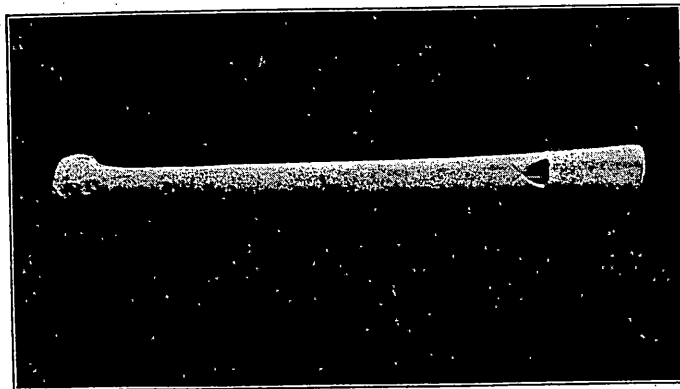
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We trust that some of their village sites may be saved from the settler's plow, which has already leveled many of their mounds with the soil, and that at least some semblance of protection may preserve the best of them from the ravages of time.

FARIBAULT, MINN.

ANTHON T. GESNER.



MANDAN INDIAN BONE WHISTLE, 8 IN. LONG, FROM MANDAN MOUND
ON WEST BANK OF THE MISSOURI RIVER, 5 MILES
SOUTH OF MANDAN, N. D.



EARLY ART IN EGYPT

WHATEVER may be true concerning the doctrine of evolution in general, the theory is subject to great modifications when applied to human history. For, almost without exception nations have attained their highest intellectual and artistic developments early in their history. Indeed nothing is more familiar to the historian than the rise and fall of nations. From one cause or another when a nation has attained a commanding position in the world decadence begins and she loses her power to maintain the high standard which by supreme effort had been rapidly attained. Hence, the course of civilization has never shone brightly for a long time in any one place. The light of civilization has indeed on the whole become brighter and more generally diffused as time rolled on, but the altars on which her fires have been kindled have been constantly transferred from one people to another.

Evidently the dawn of civilization was in the Euphrates Valley, reaching its height 4,000 or 5,000 years before the Christian era. Indeed, it is not unlikely that a high civilization existed in Babylonia contemporaneously with the River Drift Man of western Europe and Glacial Man of North America. It is now pretty clear that the early civilization of Egypt was not altogether indigenous but was borrowed from Babylonia. However, it was adapted and greatly improved by the genius which brought the valley of the Nile into so prominent a position in early history. Then, in turn, Egypt became the school-

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