

ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
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INDIAN RELICS OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM. WITH more than three centuries of recorded history intervening between the present and the indefinitely long period when the region that is now Boston was occupied by the Indians it is interesting and not a little surprising to find that evidences of these earlier inhabitants and examples of their work can still be found here. For at least half of this historic period it is probable that no Indians have lived here under the primitive conditions of the stone age, nor have any of the implements been made that we find on their old hunting and camping grounds. During much of this time, and especially since the middle of the nineteenth century, Indian relics have been collected assiduously, and yet a diligent searcher even in such a frequented place as the Arnold Arboretum can still find abundant traces of former Indian occupancy in the indestructible stone implements made and used by them in the chase and in war and in their domestic life.

Beginning with a chance find several years ago I became interested in looking for Indian evidences here, and a persistent search carried on at odd times in walks through the Arboretum has resulted in the building up of an interesting little collection, a part of which is shown on the accompanying plate.

Aside from the sentimental and romantic interest of these bits of prehistoric art, their chief value lies in the deductions that can be made from them in regard to the life and customs of the people who made them and in locating the sites of habitations occupied probably long before the coming of the first white colonists. And this in turn helps us to reconstruct some picture of what the local conditions must have been in those times and of the significance of the changes that have ensued.

The variety of artifacts remaining on the site of any prehistoric settle-



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