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Centreville R.I. U.S.A.
8.5.1880

Mr J. W. Dawson L.L.D.

My dear Sir
A work

written by you (Fossil Men) was lately loaned to me by a friend who purchased it in St. John N.B. I have been reading it with great pleasure, & have been profited and much instructed by it. Your arguments, comparisons, and conclusions have been so interesting that the work has held me like an agreeable friend, & I seem through it to have made your acquaintance.

Permit me to thank you for the pleasure the work has given me. I hope at some later day to read other works of yours.

I wish now to give you a few facts
which have fallen under my
own observation which I think
will not fail to interest you

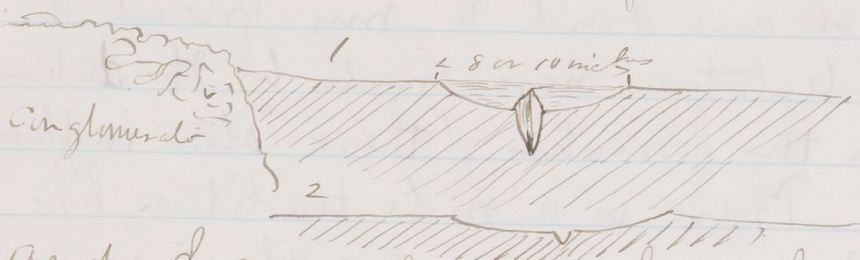
1st as to the mode of polishing
in the 2nd stage of their
manufacture, the large +
axes * chisels + skinning
cells of the tribes once resident
on the island of Rhode Island
Years ago I visited the island
and was taken to a place
in the town of Middletown about
2 miles east of Newport city +
at the west end of the 2nd beach
+ near the spot called *Purgatory*
where is found a bold precipitous
outcropping of the conglomerate rock
which is largely prominent in the
geological formation of the island
In this conglomerate rock is
dyke of light gray sand stone which

runs I think from south west to
north east and widens to the N.E.
and finally is lost with the dip
of the rock where the ocean
makes up. In this sand stone
dyke are some peculiar artificial
pre historic markings which ~~are~~
~~are~~ attracted my attention and
I at once said to my friend these
indentations were made by the Indians
in the formation of their stone implements

There is a wide tradition, like
to many we meet with in various
parts of our own & other lands which
connects this spot with his latanic
Majesty, "For was it not here that he
laid violent hands upon an Indian
squan, drow her down on the path
of this smooth rock, here cut off he
head, and threw the body into the
ocean". So much for the foolish
tradition but now ^{as} to the character

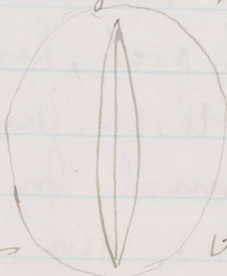
of these peculiar markings.

as near as I can recollect from observations made while resident there a few years since these marks or forms are of two kinds varying only in the depth of the central depression in section they were formed thus



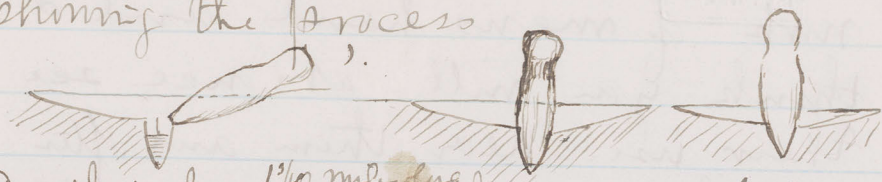
and I am not sure but what there were a few of these forms without the central depression.

I now give a plan of one which will illustrate shape more fully in Fig 3. The oval marks the depression the line of the longest diameter of which might have been 12 or 15 inches the shortest 8 or 10



These depressions are clearly the
 work of mens hands, and I
 think you will at once see
 their use. Near them and after
 into them came the ocean water
 and there doubtless in the past
 could be seen groups of workers
 who here in this primitive among
 by the sea fashioned instruments
 of stone for peace & war. Seated
 here flat upon the rocks with
 stone ax tomahawk or chisel in
 this hands the patient workman
 slowly wrought into shape the
 rough unyielding stone after it
 had recd the ~~violent~~ action of the
 point of their stone dressing instrument
 evidence of whose use is so often seen
 on celts. There were surfaces
 made in the sand stone which
 were adapted for the chaping of
 sides and edge, to show this I make

two or three illustrative sketches
showing the process



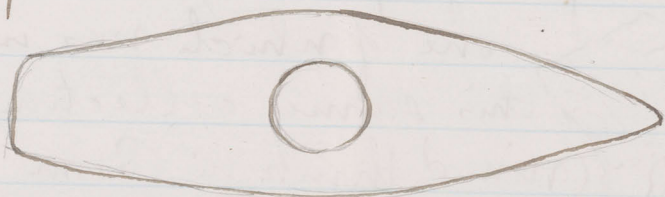
On this beach ^{1 1/2 miles long} at the end of which
this rock is found now in the
summer season are found parties
on horse back + in various elegant
equipages enjoying the scenery the
delightful sea breezes + the voice of
the mighty deep, but in my fancy
I often see the rude and simple
savages at work here while
amound upon the rocks the shore
+ on the waters were seen
groups of the natives who doubtless
in their day + in their way
highly valued and calmly enjoyed
this lovely spot where they have
left only this single mark of
their former presence.

I write to you and give

So far as I am aware the 10th
conjecture that has ever been
given to one of your tastes and
research upon this subject

Should you ever be in this
part of our country I should
be glad if possible, to meet you
and show you these as I think
remarkable forms. I have never
seen any account of any similar
ones any where.

I have two other matters
of interest. Among some cells
collected by a friend of mine
was one about this size and
shape




Line of hole.



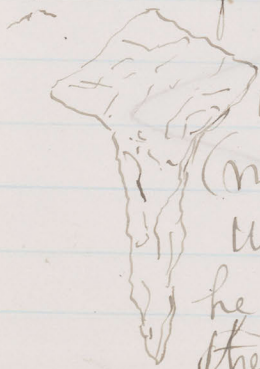
Plan

The gentlemen who had it, could not determine its use and for some time I could not myself until one day while riding in the cars it came to me that this was an instrument used in forming their money or wampum made from the shells of the "Quahog" and the great clam.

With the large + hammer-like surface he fractured the shell into fragments - with the point ~~and~~ having a stone or hard wood bed to work on he chiseled the shell roughly into shape  thus

one of which was in this same collection (now I think in Brown University Providence R.I.)

he pierced the ~~shell~~ shell these pierced fragments were



then ready to be strung on a
 line of sinew or dried skin
 after which being secured by
 knots to prevent their slipping
 one end could be held by an
 assistant or fastened securely
 then taking his stone "die" or
 multiform instrument he could
 pass the cord through it and
 form the whole into a string of
 shell discs such as we now
 find in the museums of the day.

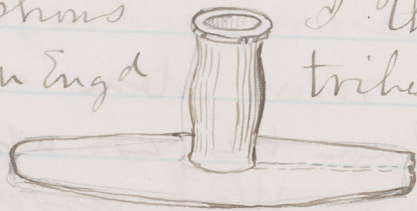
All this may be very tame
 to one of your deep research and
 experience, Observation has been
 my teacher, as your work is the
 only one on the manners & custom
 of the natives ^{as to their calls} that I have ever
 had the pleasure reading.

One more item and I
 will no longer trespass upon your
 valuable time. While residing in

in my 1st parish and boarding
at the house of a farmer, his
youngest son one day brought
into my room an Indian pipe
which was found 4 ft below the surface
of a gravel bank near Taunton
River, it is made of Soap
Stone is about 6 inches long &
4 inches high, and is of a
^{somewhat} similar shape to an Alogan
pipe given by you in Fossil Men
page 150. I have never seen one
like it and think it a rare
thing to find this shape in
our New England states.

I have a photograph of the pipe
but do not know where the original
one is. It was sold for \$25.00

It shows
the New Eng^d
have



I think that
tribes must
had
intercourse