

C I R C U L A R

RELATING TO

COLLECTIONS IN ARCHEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY.

THE Smithsonian Institution is now engaged in arranging the specimens in its collection which illustrate the history of the native tribes that have inhabited the continent of America from the earliest known period to the present time. It proposes to give to this department of science especial prominence, and respectfully invites the co-operation of its correspondents, and of the friends of science generally, in gathering together in the national museum under its charge, as full a series of the objects in question as it may be possible to collect at the present day.

In a pamphlet published by the Institution (a copy of which will be sent to any applicant) will be found detailed instructions for researches in the ethnology and philology of the American races. Among the objects there indicated as especially desired, may be mentioned the following :—

1st. Human crania of both sexes, and in as large number as practicable; the name of the tribe and sex when known, and of the locality and collector to be legibly written on the bone.

2d. Photographic portraits of both sexes of the different tribes.

3d. Remains of tribes now extinct: among these may be mentioned the axes, arrow-heads, pipes, pestles, and other implements of stone found in the superficial soil; pottery, either in fragments or entire, of earthenware, soapstone, or other material; images, idols, and, in fact, whatever has been in any way fashioned by the hand of the aboriginal man. The locality of each object

should, as far as known, be indicated, as also the name of the tribe formerly inhabiting the region where found.

4th. Illustrations of the ethnology of living tribes: under this head may be included the various articles of dress used by each sex, and at different seasons of the year; pipes; implements of fishing and hunting, of war, agriculture and manufacture; domestic utensils (especially those used in grinding eorn, etc.), models of boats, lodges, tents, sleds, etc.; trapping of horses, dogs, and reindeer; mats, baskets, etc. All such objects should be accompanied by accurate information, when procurable, of the tribe, locality, date, native name, and uses of the same, as well as name of collector.

While full series of objects from different localities are desirable, single specimens will be very acceptable as tending to fill up gaps in collections already made. Duplicate specimens in larger or smaller numbers will be also useful to make up series for exchange with ethnological museums at home and abroad.

Due acknowledgment will, in all cases, be made for contributions of the kind asked for, on the labels of the specimens, in the annual reports of the Institution, etc., as well as in the descriptive memoirs which may be based upon the same. Return will also be made in the annual reports of the Institution, and other of its publications of interest to the donor, while in some cases it may be possible to furnish specimens of natural history, as shells etc. in exchange.

JOSEPH HENRY,
Secretary S. I.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, January 15, 1867.