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ANTIQUITIES

OF

PORTSMOUTH AND VICINITY:

WITH

SOME SPECULATIONS

UPON



THE ORIGIN AND DESTINY OF THE MOUND BUILDERS.

✓  
BY G. S. B. HEMPSTEAD, A. M., M. D.

PORTSMOUTH, OHIO :  
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Portsmouth, N.  
June 26<sup>th</sup> 1846

Peter G. Thomson Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir

Your favor of the 23<sup>rd</sup>  
did not come to hand on Saturday last.  
I have the first opportunity to reply —

The pamphlet was first published  
in the Portsmouth Freeman  
& on the instance of the Editor, he sug-  
gesting that our community was not  
sufficiently educated to the importance of  
our ancient works in our vicinity.

They were published in the winter of '45, & were  
the result of a long and arduous  
and successful and well attended  
series of his publications, early  
in 1835, and having received at the  
time a large and valuable  
collection of those ancient works  
at that place and others, have been

are interested about the monuments  
claims and their works since the year  
1812 -

Before entering upon the work of  
getting up information for our interest  
again we must first re-banish  
again, taking new observations and  
new measurements - Replating the  
for our former, and later surveys

Respectfully yours  
J. S. P. Thompson

## ANTIQUITIES OF PORTSMOUTH AND VICINITY.

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At the present day archæology is receiving much attention in all parts of the civilized world, and great interest is manifested to become acquainted with the people of pre-historic times. "This science was known and studied five hundred years before the present era," but until the seventeenth century philosophers had not decided whether fossils were "the sports of Nature or relics of once living beings." So preposterous were the ideas of many at that time, "that some gravely maintained that the bones of elephants" were "those of fallen angels." "It was reserved for Cuvier and his successors to dispel this delusion, open the book of nature, rich with the relics of primeval ages, and enable the archæologist to commence his studies with a knowledge of the forms and characteristics of the animals of the pre-adamite or antediluvian world."

Among the aids to the study of archæology are the remains of weapons, utensils, ornaments, fossils, and fabrics of earth, stone and bronze, which men had worked out, each for himself or all combined. These materials furnished ample room for development of skill in workmanship, progressing from the stone age to the of age metal. The stone age comprises the epoch of the mammoth, the cave bear, the cave lion, the hairy rhinoceros, the rein deer, or migrating animals, and the rough stone era; this soon gave place to the polished stone era, or the epoch of tamed animals; and this latter was soon followed by the metallic age, which comprises the period from the smooth stone age to the epoch of copper, bronze, tin, iron and other metals. Coeval with the stone age are the ancient mounds and earth-works so numerous in the central parts of the United States. These diminish as we approach the Atlantic, and are very scarce in British America and west of the Rocky Mountains.

Upon examination of these ancient embankments, it is difficult to conceive what useful purpose they could subserve in their present shape; either as a protection against enemies, or as enclosures

against wild animals, as many of them, at their earliest examination, were not over from 3 to 8 feet in height with a base of about 30 feet. As early as 1806 I had frequent opportunities of examining many of these embankments in our State; and from circumstances which occurred at that time I am satisfied that in their entirety they presented an appearance very different from what they now do. When passing over these embankments, on horse-back, my horse would frequently break through the surface and sometimes fall. This occurred so often I became curious to know why these embankments were so insecure. Upon examination I found a cavity which had been occupied by two sticks of timber, parallel to each other; these had decayed and left the surface earth without support. This with some other facts, tending to the same conclusion, has convinced me that the parallel walls, and perhaps the mound, were first constructed of timber, held together by cross ties and filled with surface earth. Thus constructed they would have been a protection against the approach of enemies and a perfect barrier against the encroachments and ravages of the large animals of that period. Constructed in that manner there is sufficient earth to have made a wall 4 feet thick and 20 or 30 feet high, equal to all purposes for which they might have been built.

The ancient implements, earth-works and cairns of North America differ more in degree than in kind from similar remains in other countries, they are more numerous, more concentrated, and in many respects, on a larger scale of labor than works and implements of this kind in Europe. Their numbers may be the result of frequent changes of residence, caused by the visitation of some great calamity; but I incline to the opinion that these are attributable to the numerical density of their population; for those works clearly indicate a thickly inhabited country, and a period sufficiently long for progressive enlargement and extension. The antiquities may be divided into two grand divis-



ions, their implements, including ornaments, and their earth-works; to the latter I propose to give more particular attention in these papers. These earth-works may be thus classified: 1st. Inclosures to protect them and their crops from the large animals that existed at that period. 2d. Sepulchral, sacrificial and temple mounds. 3d. Animal mounds, and 4th, Hunting grounds for trapping large animals and securing them for sport or food.

That they had no enemies of their own kind is evident from the fact that there are no remains of camps, forts or counter works anywhere to be found in Southern Ohio, and their weapons are all of a kind that could be used, principally, against animals existing at that time, or to procure food. Their implements of warfare were only arrow points and spear heads,—no battle axes, no breast plates, no shields, no clubs of any kind have ever been found; even the plates of copper, occasionally turned up by the plow, are rather to be classed among ornaments or badges of office, than as protections for the person.

The implements of bone and stone found in one region are perfect samples of those found all over North America. The flint scales, hatchets, axes, arrow and spear heads, etc., are a facsimile of those which occur on the western portion of the eastern continent, and differ none from those found in the Swiss lakes, in Norway, Denmark, England, France and Ireland, if proper allowance be made for the difference of material, variety of articles and elaborate finish. Those of America being far more numerous and distinguished by more personal ornaments, more badges of office and a finer finish than those of the eastern continent; showing, in my opinion, that the mound-builders of the West were much more enlightened and civilized than their eastern brethren, before entering upon the bronze age, which, no doubt, occurred at an earlier period on this continent than it did in Europe.

These articles differ much in construction; some are quite rough but preserving the outline, others smooth and highly polished; some perforated, others not; the former indicating a faulty workmanship or lack of skill; or, perhaps, were in an unfinished state when thrown aside.

Many archaeologists incline to the opinion that the perforated axes of Europe belonged to the metallic age, and that the nations of Central America were in an age of bronze, while the North Americans were in a condition of which

we find in Europe scanty traces,—namely, an age of copper.

This may be explained by taking a different view, which appears quite as plausible. The mound-builders discovered copper here sooner than their ancestors did in Europe, and previous to their descendants in Central America, who took with them to that country their knowledge of this metal when they emigrated from the North. There is very little doubt that the primitive inhabitants of this country were, for a series of years, in the occupancy of this valley before they discovered copper, and they had progressed but little in its use before that great event occurred which drove them to the southern portions of our continent. Here their ornaments of copper were all brought into shape by the hammer; while in Arkansas and Texas many of them were formed by melting and moulding them into shape. It is inferred, and justly too, that the elaborate, difficult and careful manipulation required in the process of moulding, melting and casting were more recent than that of hammering; hence, we believe this people emigrated to this portion of our continent before the southern parts were peopled.

There is in their works in Texas a manifest improvement which continues into Mexico and Central America where the remains of the finest specimens of stone edifices are still to be found, equaling in architectural finish many of a later period. It is not probable that the mound-builders emigrating from Central America and Mexico would have gone back in their knowledge of the use of stone, when that material was as abundant here as in the South.

Among their ornaments the pipe was, probably, one of their earliest appliances of luxury; and it is evident, from the great skill which they attained in its manufacture, and the immense numbers found, that its use was universal. Many of them manufactured from the hardest stone, and wrought into a variety of artistic forms, equaling, in many instances, the mechanical skill of the present day. The number of these articles is perfectly astounding.

One of the tumuli opened, in what has been called Mound City, in the Scioto valley, contained two hundred pipes, many pearl and shell beads, numerous dishes and some tubes of copper covered with silver. The pipes were composed of porphyritic stone, resembling the red pipe stone of the "Coteau des Praires." I believe it is generally conceded that this pipe stone, when first taken from the quarry, is soft and easily cut into



shape; but upon exposure to the atmosphere becomes very hard, so hard that a file has little effect upon it. Upon the bowls of many of these pipes were carved, in miniature, figures of animals, birds, reptiles, etc.,—the features of the various objects are represented with strict fidelity to nature and with exquisite skill. The habits of some of these animals are as faithfully delineated as their features. Sir John Lubbock says, in his *Prehistoric Times*, that, from the number of pipes found and their perfect execution, it is evident that pipe-carving was, no doubt, a regular profession, and that the division of labor had already begun.

Exactly the same feeling, which induces many savage nations to bury weapons with the dead hunter, that he may supply himself with food and comforts in a future world, as he did in this, is similar to that among some ancient nations who placed money in the graves of the dead. This would account for the presence of these pipes; for, perhaps then as now, if the pipe seller could dispose of his pipes in the grave, he might render his whole stock in trade more available.

One of the largest mounds yet opened is at Grave creek, West Virginia, which was, no doubt, sepulchral. One of the skeletons was accompanied by 1700 bone beads, 500 sea shells and 50 pieces of mica, besides other articles. In the medium sized mounds, or those between the small, or sepulchral, and the large, or temple mounds, large quantities of carbonaceous matter are found, such as would be produced in ashes of leaves, wood or grass after being burned; this leads many to suppose that human sacrifices were there offered up, and that the rites were similar to those of the Aztecs; but others insist that this opinion is sustained by insufficient testimony; and rather conclude that these appearances were produced by the cremation of the dead, as is practiced by many nations in historic times.

The temple mounds are pyramidal structures, truncated, having a flat top of greater or lesser area. Some of these are terraced and others have graded avenues to the summit. One of the largest and most remarkable of these is found in Illinois. It is stated to be 700 ft. long, 500 ft. wide and 90 ft. high; the solid contents of this pile of earth has been estimated to contain 20,000,000 cubic ft.

These large accumulations of earth, which are found all over Ohio and the West, lead me to speak of the hill, known as Kinney's Hill, in the rear of and upon a part of which Col. P. Kin-

ney's residence is situated. This is a most remarkable structure, being in length, from southeast to northwest, about 5,137 feet, in elevation about 234 feet above the second terrace, and with a base of not less than 300 feet. From this immense structure 5 spurs or arms extend, making an addition of 4,877 feet to the accumulation of earth in this pile. From the summit you command the view of the whole valley for miles around. The length of this hill, including the arms, is about 20,014 feet, almost 4 miles, with bases of from 100 feet to 1320 feet. The purposes for which these were erected cannot now be known; but it is probable it was the residence of the chiefs and magnates of this people. No exploration of this magnificent pile has ever been made with a view to scientific disclosures, so far as I can ascertain, and the first survey ever made was about one year ago, by R. A. Bryan, Esq., Civil Engineer of the city, who also took elevations at the same time. There are many reasons for believing this work to be artificial. The regular strata of rocks, found in the adjacent river hills, are absent in this. I learn that a quarry was once opened in this hill, about two thirds of its height from the base, but have not been able to ascertain whether these rocks had been conveyed there in masses to fill up in the structure of the pile, or were once a lower spur of the river hills, whose connection with the river range had been removed, and placed upon this pile, to increase its elevation. This conclusion I think quite probable, from the fact that the amount of earth removed from the space intervening between this edifice and the river system of hills is sufficiently large to make the present structure; but what they did with the strata of rocks contained in the portion removed I cannot conjecture, unless, as before stated, they were placed in the hill to increase its dimensions and dispose of this surplus material. Nothing but a careful exploration of this immense pile can solve the problem. This structure has no evidences of having been used as a place of worship; but, as before intimated, was erected as a foundation for the edifices of the chiefs of this wonderful race. From the highest point of this elevation they could survey the valleys of the Scioto and Ohio rivers, and could see and know all that was transpiring within the range of vision. They, probably, had signals by which they could convey intelligence to the elevated stations in other parts of the valley, and, if necessary, arouse the whole population. If the timber was removed, we might

see from this elevation, the works at Pond creek, the old fort, the temple mound, the works at our County Fair Grounds, and the tops of all the large mounds east and west of this point. These high mounds and projecting head lands (the latter of which have been so manipulated as to become, to some extent, isolated from the river hills) were, no doubt, constructed to convey intelligence, by signals, along the valleys and over the high lands. It is said by those who have examined this system of signal stations, that from the mound at Norwood, in the Great Miami valley, signals could be passed from the valley of Mill creek to the Little Miami valley, near Newton, and through the Great Miami valley to Hamilton, in Butler county. Squier and Davis say there are a series of signal mounds along the Scioto river, across Ross county, extending down into Pike and up into Pickaway counties. Mr. Sullivan, of Columbus, says he traced a series of these signal stations, along the Scioto river, entirely across Franklin County to Pickaway, and he has no doubt that a careful examination would show a continuous chain of stations from Delaware county to Portsmouth in Scioto county; my observations in Scioto and Pike counties confirm his suppositions. It is quite credible to say that messages of alarm, and perhaps others might have been conveyed by these stations as soon as they are now by telegraph, but very probably not in the same way, nor would they be as lucid and comprehensive; yet, for alarm and some other purposes might be quite as intelligible. This system of telegraphing, if such it might be called, leads me to enquire, by what kind of civil policy were they governed?—Were all the settlements under one chief, or head? Or were they united by a kind of federal union; each palatinate, to a certain extent, independent of the others? I incline to the affirmative of the last of these questions; that the whole was under one chief (and he a despot) with subordinate governors residing at the different localities; else these signal stations could not be of any value nor very reliable, and might be very unsafe. Without this kind of government they could not have accomplished the immense work they have; for, no wealth, however great, no expenditure, however lavish, could meet the expenses which would have been incurred, if they had been the work of *free men* who received for their labor a fair and honest compensation. Much of this uncompensated labor has been done in this world, and not a little in our own

country, outside of that performed by the mound-builders.

It is to such a condition of society, a condition based on human slavery, that we trace the origin of all these monuments of antiquity; wonderful in their vastness, but, to us aimless in their objects. We are lost in wonder and astonishment, when we are told that 2,000 men were occupied for three years in moving a single stone from Elephantine to Sais on the Nile; that the canal of the Red Sea, alone, cost the lives of 120,000 Egyptians; and to build one of the pyramids required the labor of 360,000 men for 20 years. When we read of the great high-ways of the Peruvians, macadamized or paved with flat stones, extending a thousand miles, connecting together the most distant points of the empire; of the princely palaces of the Incas, constructed of dressed stone, supplied with aqueducts of costly structure; of the terraced pyramids of Cholula in Mexico, 172 feet in height with a base of 1335 feet, almost double that of the great pyramid of Egypt, covering with its brick work an area of 45 acres; of the platform mound of Cahokia in the Mississippi valley, supposed to contain one-fourth the cubic contents of the great pyramid of Ghizeh, in Egypt; of the mound at Grave Creek, nearly equal to the third pyramid of Egypt, or that of Mycerinus; and when we look upon the vast pile heaped up on the third terrace north of our town, we are forced to the inevitable and sad conclusion that the industry of the great mass of the population was at the command of the few; and that the condition of society, among the mound-builders, was not that of *free men*, or, in other words, that the State possessed absolute power over the lives and fortunes of its subjects.

How much labor or how much time the mound-builders bestowed upon these extensive monuments in our vicinity, no one knows, and, perhaps, no one ever will know; yet, I do not despair that pictorials, hieroglyphics, or some kind of writing will some day be found, that may be deciphered, and give us the whole history of this wonderful people. I cannot believe a race, so far advanced in civilization as were the mound-builders, could exist without some method, other than tradition, to perpetuate important events in their history.

The temple mound in Kentucky, about four miles above Portsmouth, is situated upon the second terrace and connected by parallel embankments with the extensive works on this side of the Ohio river. There is a graded avenue passing spirally to the top, which is flat



and has an area of some twelve or fifteen feet in diameter; it has three segmentary embankments and ditches, with four avenues at right angles, only one of which passes the inner ditch, the others stop at that point, and the mound can only be gained by crossing the inner trench. The top of the mound can be seen from any of these embankments or trenches, and full knowledge be obtained of all that transpires on the summit, where, no doubt, religious rites were performed. The whole arrangement is peculiarly well adapted to the celebration of some of the religious ceremonies practiced by ancient nations.

Offering sacrifices were common to most barbarians, and the history of the Jews furnishes us with numerous instances of the altars being located on "high places." An avenue (flanked on either side by an embankment) from this mound extends in a north-westerly direction to the Ohio river, and is continued to the central works at the Fair Grounds, in length about four and three quarter miles. From this last point, south-west, to the "Old Fort" is about four and a quarter miles. The parallel walls, extending north-west from the Fair Grounds to the Scioto valley, are one and one-quarter miles of earth-embankments, and these all duplicated, giving us about twenty and one half miles of earth-work, forty feet wide at the base, and three feet high. It is barely possible that the parallel walls extending south-east, south-west and north west were made in vain, but it is more probable they were intended for some useful purpose; besides serving as an inclosure to protect their crops, they might have been used as a way to the various important points to which they tend,—to the temple mound, to the hunting ground, and to the animal mound, and to the works in that vicinity.

From the fact that none of these works are located on the first terrace, it would seem this first terrace was not yet formed and that it was covered by water; of this I can have no doubt, as this first terrace on the Scioto and Ohio rivers has risen a number of inches, and in places feet have been added since I first became acquainted with them.

These works, exclusive of the labor bestowed upon the temple mound, the "Old Fort," the works west of the Scioto river, including the animal mound, the large mound at Unionville, the one north of Kinney's hill, Greenbriar hill, Lawson's cemetery and others; with the immense amount of labor bestowed upon the faces of the hills for miles up

and down the valleys of the Ohio and Scioto, give us some idea of the vast resources of this people.

The title "Old Fort," I consider a misnomer. Messrs. Squier and Davis had doubts in regard to this spot being a place of defence, for they say, "if this fort is not a place of defence, we must seek some other explanation of its purpose." A careful examination of this locality must satisfy any one that it was never intended for a protection against enemies from without, and a variety of reasons may be offered that this conclusion is correct. First, as has been before said, from the fact that there are no remains of camps or counter-works anywhere to be found in the vicinity of this fort, and the same may be said of all the works in Southern Ohio. Second, why place this work so far from the center of population, with no evidence of any occupants south-west of it for many miles? Had this people found it necessary to repair to this shelter for safety, they would have found it extremely inconvenient. A large river to pass would have been no inconsiderable hindrance in gaining this place of protection; admit that the parallel walls extending from the main settlement south westerly, would have protected them in their retreat, yet the river would still be a great impediment to their progress. I do not profess to have much knowledge of defences of this kind; but it would seem to me to be the dictate of plain common sense, that a retreat of this sort should be placed where it would be easy of access, and no impediment in the way to hinder or retard any one whose exposure or insecurity required him to seek protection within its walls. Third, it was evidently never intended to keep anything out, but is well calculated to keep anything in, after it has once been placed there. The whole work may be commanded and securely held from the river hills, in close proximity, on the south-east side, where the wall is not elevated above the surrounding surface more than one or two feet, while on the inner side it is twenty-five feet in height. An enemy, having gained this eminence, could annoy those within, with arrows and spears, from all parts of the embankments.

From these inclosures there is no means by which those from without could be assailed, except from the gateways or the top of the walls—either of which would be of doubtful expediency. In fact there is no possible way they could destroy their assailants, except by a combat on the open plain and exposing themselves severely. If these are facts,

and this reasoning legitimate, why build a fort of this kind or go into it for protection? Those within threatened with starvation every hour, while those without have full supplies of food and water from all quarters. Besides, how could they ever have built these extensive, yes, I may say these *immense* works, if they had enemies, of their own kind so numerous and important as to require a fort of such dimensions for protection when attacked, an asylum into which they might retreat when an enemy appeared? The idea is preposterous; if they had enemies sufficient in numbers to require a retreat of this kind, they could never have built even such a work as we find "the old fort" in Kentucky to be, much less those which we find in our midst. If this was a place of defence and retreat, why those long arms extending more than a mile from north-east to south-west, with parallels only six rods apart? No, they were a peaceful, civil, industrious and laborious people, with nothing to molest or disturb. Their security, their leisure and their numbers justified them in devising and carrying to completion all the works we find scattered over our state and throughout the whole west; else they could never have erected those extensive structures we now find all over the country. These immense piles of earth, still patent among us, notwithstanding the desolating progress of civilization, testify to their immense numbers, their indomitable perseverance and their unceasing toil. Again, their labors were not confined to those special earth works, mounds, elevated squares, parallel walls and other conformations so interesting to us, but they leveled and symmetrized the faces of all our hills and cultivated successfully all our valleys. Any one who will carefully examine the elevations opposite the city of Portsmouth, when the foliage is removed, must conclude that the surface has been manipulated by the hand of man long before the Anglo-Saxon stepped upon our soil. Those terraces were never made by the lazy and unprofitable Indians we found occupying the country when we took possession, neither did they come by natural causes, but are part and parcel of the labors of that great people whose works we survey with wonder and admiration. View carefully the outlines of the immediate valley of the Ohio, as you pass from Portsmouth to Ashland, in the spring season. You will find the northern and southern faces of the hills so constructed as to prevent the access of those large animals, which were numerous all over the country, ex-

cept by the ravines which break into the valley, and these ravines are almost without an exception, guarded by a large mound, or some isolated spur of the river range, or by precipitous hill-sides so steep and ravines so narrow that an elephant, mastodon or rhinoceros could not with safety enter the valley. The whole surface of the valleys and hills has not the expression of nature, but manifestly shows the hand of man wherever the eye rests. From this point to the Little Scioto there are but few openings through which these large animals could gain access to the valley, and these are so narrow at their base, either where they open into the valley or at their commencement, with sides so precipitous that invasions from these animals from without must have been few and far between,—when we reflect how easily they could be turned and greatly annoyed from the acclivities of these hill-sides by the spears and bows and arrows of their assailants.

From the Little Scioto to the high sandy bluff just above Pine Creek, on the Haverhill turnpike, the formation of the surface of the hills is peculiar. The river ranges seem to disappear, and in their places we have lower elevations, more rounded and very symmetrical. The western face of the hill on the east side of the Little Scioto is very high and precipitous; gradually sloping off as it progresses eastward, until the surface assumes a beautiful undulating form, admirably adapted to domicils or cultivation, continuing till you come to the bluff above Pine Creek.

In the neighborhood of Wheelersburg are some of those delicately rounded hills and ridges affording the finest locations for residences to be found anywhere in the valley.

Near Franklin Furnace the hills assume a more elevated aspect and become more precipitous. The character of the hills is similar on both sides of the Ohio, from Portsmouth to the eastern line of the county, and for some distance above, the ranges of river hills, to my eye, present a sufficient barrier to the rapid entrance or exit of those large animals into or from the immediate valley of the Ohio. These ranges of hills inclose within their borders three or more spacious valleys, containing many thousands of acres of the finest land in the world.

When speaking of the so-called "Old Fort," I said I considered the title, "Old Fort," a misnomer, and gave my reasons for that conclusion. I shall now proceed to give my views as to the uses and objects of this work, and endeavor to



show the grounds upon which I base my opinions. There are many good reasons and some strong arguments to show that this structure was intended to entrap, to secure and to hunt those large animals which roamed over the hills and ranged through the valleys at that time. Into this inclosure they would entice, by stratagem and deposits of food, those animals, and keep them in reserve for food or sport. At the same time they could give notice to all in that region to assemble for a general hunt, a day of relaxation and sport, and a plentiful supply of food. The numerous gateways furnish abundant means of entrance from without; by these, with the proper food placed within, and, perhaps, domestic or tamed animals of the same kind, used as decoys, any number might be secured within these inclosures. Its remote position from the main settlement—there being no evidence of occupancy by this people for miles in the direction of the river, south-westerly,—and its peculiar adaptation to accommodate large numbers of persons at the same time in perfect security, all taking an equal part in the amusement, point it out as a place of pleasure and profit. Animals secured in this inclosure could be kept for any length of time, and slaughtered only as they might be needed for food. If the gates were left open and one or more of these large animals wandering in, as soon as any were fairly within the inclosure they could be seen from all the high points located throughout the valley, and intelligence communicated to those whose duty it might be to close the gates and secure the game. Then, from the tops of the walls, thousands could enjoy the excitement and partake in the work of destruction. When an animal was killed if there were more in the inclosure they could be driven into other parts of the space inclosed and kept there for another day of sport.

That the mastodon and mammoth were both good for food is satisfactorily settled, as many have been found in Siberia, frozen in the ice, within the last few years, and eaten by the natives of that region. One was found entire and in a perfect state of preservation, perhaps thousands of years after its death, and its skeleton, with the skin and hairy covering, are now preserved in the museum of the Russian capital. The animals of this period were the mastodon, mammoth, the woolly rhinoceros, the reindeer, cave bear, cave lion, the extinct horse, with the megalonyx, megatherium, mylodon, and others of the sloth family. All these animals,

except the reindeer, which is now confined to the extreme north, have disappeared, and are no longer seen among us. These large animals, except the horse and reindeer, were built for strength, and not for speed or rapid locomotion.

To the mound builders the sloth family were no doubt of much service in clearing the land of the heavy growth of timber, which we have every reason to believe was at that time quite massive. They were provided with claws resembling the horns of the ox, with which they loosened the roots of the largest trees; and attaching themselves to the higher branches, by their weight they swayed them backward and forward until they fell prostrate and were consumed for food. Fancy one of these large animals attempting to enter the valley proper of the Ohio, through these narrow ravines with their precipitous sides, or coming down the declivities of the river range of hills, how easily they could be annoyed, turned or captured by agile, active men, placed on the sides of these steeply sloping acclivities with the simple bow and arrow and spear.

If these views are correct, there were thousands of acres of the immediate valley of the Ohio perfectly protected from the incursions of these destructive animals, and left free to productive cultivation. These eminences in all cases being guarded by grades of not less than forty-five degrees elevation, the only exceptions being the long, easy slopes made for their own special convenience and duly protected.

The area of land inclosed by the parallels extending from the fair grounds north-west and south-west contains about five hundred acres of the best of land laying upon the second terrace. The amount contained between the south-west and south-east embankments is about one thousand acres. All contained within these limits was no doubt specially set apart for the use of the principal men who controlled, governed and directed the affairs of this immense nation, spreading up and down the valley of the Ohio for many miles.

That there were two races, consisting of a dominant and a servile class, cannot be doubted; for the physiological difference between the skulls found shows conclusively this fact. Those found in the small mounds are uniform in character, being of the brachycephalous kind—wide from ear to ear, and short from before backward; in other words, a round head. Others have been found in gravel banks and other places, apparently buried without much

regularity or ceremony, of the dolichocapthalous cast—long from before backward, and short from ear to ear, with the retreating forehead.

The sepulchral, sacrificial and temple mounds may all be grouped together, the smaller ones for the burial of their distinguished dead and the larger for cremation purposes. I infer this from the fact that not more than two entire skeletons have been found in any one mound; oftener a single one than any other number. Some sixty years ago I assisted in opening eighteen or twenty mounds, having an elevation of from three to eight or nine feet, in two of which we found two skeletons each, in both cases a male and a female. In others were found the remains of the dead, but no evidences of plurality. In the larger ones were proofs of cremation—charcoal, ashes, burned earth and parts of bones, none entire except the phalanges of the feet and hands. These were quite numerous, indicating that more than one body had been burned. An occasional lower jaw bone in an entire state was found, and so large as to pass freely over the lower jaw of the largest and best developed young man in our company. The smaller were used for a cemetery alone, and the larger evidently connected with some religious rites where fire was an important agent. The temple mounds were no doubt reserved for great and solemn occasions where large assemblies were congregated, and where peculiar rites and ceremonies were practiced.

It is very difficult, almost impossible, to conjecture for what purpose the animal mounds were erected. To suppose they were built for mere amusement is not within the range of probability, and that they had some religious or useful purpose there cannot be a doubt. Now what was that purpose? Were they built as foundations for dwellings, or storehouses for the products of the soil, and was that form adopted from a superstitious idea that it would placate the animal whose form they represented? Or were they the representations of animals which these people worshiped? Or were they intended to perpetuate some great historical event? For what purpose these monuments were erected as yet we know not. The contents of these animal mounds do not assist us in this inquiry. Many of them have been opened or entirely removed, but the only result has been to show that they are not sepulchral, and that, excepting by accident, they contain no implements or ornaments. Under these circumstances speculation is useless, and

we must wait, and hope that time and perseverance may yet solve the problem and explain the nature of these remarkable and mysterious monuments.

The small mounds and the cremation mounds were not the only repositories of the dead; large fields are found literally filled with the remains of the departed. One field, on the second terrace, directly west of the termination of the northwest parallels, containing six or seven acres, was, fifty years ago, a perfect mass of human bones, and annually the plow turned up such masses that the surface was white with them. Another field of about eight acres, in front of the residence of John Feurt, Esq., is of the same character, and for years has yielded to the plow an abundant crop of human remains. I need not say these fields have maintained their reputation for productiveness through a long series of years, although almost every year tilled with the plow. Both these fields have been very productive of stone axes, pipes, arrows and spear-heads, as well as a great variety of stone ornaments and other implements of antique fashion.

In addition to these various burying places, we have the gravel banks and cairns, now used for improving our roads and turnpikes. The gravel-beds are located a few feet below the surface and near the top of the second terrace. In the surface gravel yards the bones consisted almost entirely of the trunk and extremities; few or no entire skulls have been found; while in the gravel-beds entire skeletons are quite common and are frequently obtained.

Why these different forms of burial were practiced has been a fruitless inquiry. As I have said, the bodies buried in the surface graveyards were most numerous; in the small mounds, seldom more than two were found; in the gravel beds less frequent than in the surface fields, and in the cairns never more than one. It is not improbable that many may have died from the great calamity which ultimately drove them to emigration; or desolating epidemics may have decimated their population then as now, requiring them to dispose of their dead as early as possible; hence these surface burials. When hasty burials were not urgent the gravel beds would have been selected as most desirable, because of their freedom from moisture, and their rapid drainage.

The cairns are located in all cases upon the tops of the highest and most conspicuous head-lands, and are conical in form, consisting of small stones, none of which is larger than one could easily



manipulate. These are thrown together promiscuously, and destitute of any of the paraphernalia of burials of that period,—no arrows or spear-points, no axes, no ornaments, but nude as he came into the world he went out, not even a pipe to console him on his last journey.

It is manifest to me that these were places of execution for those whose offenses were of a character not to be pardoned or condoned. Here they were stoned to death, a method of punishment early practiced by the human race; and these high places were selected that all from below might see the end of the malefactor and avoid his fate. It is probable, too, that every member of his family, tribe or race were made executioners of that man, who had forfeited the respect and protection of his fellow-citizens. All marched up the hill armed with the implements of death, which they piled upon the unfortunate culprit, the instruments of his destruction becoming his tomb, to perpetuate the memory of his crime. These cairns are located as follows: One on Campbell's hill, above Brush Creek; one back of Alexander, below the old bed of the Scioto River; another on what is called Raven Rock, a prominent head-land about one mile below Alexander, on the Ohio River. Another of these cairns is found upon the farm of J. B. Gregory, Esq., located upon a high head-land, three miles below Raven Rock, from which may be seen the whole of the Front street of Portsmouth, six miles distant.

The stone from this cairn was placed upon the Buena Vista turnpike, and I have not been able to ascertain whether any human bones were found in it or not. The base of this was about fifteen feet in diameter, and, when first noticed, eight feet high. In size these cairns correspond with the smaller earthen mounds, being about fifteen or twenty feet in diameter and from three to eight feet high.

Other cairns are found in different parts of our county—a number in the vicinity of John Feurt's, Esq.—several near Franklin Furnace, and quite a number in Kentucky, in the neighborhood of B. King, Esq., upon whose farm are found some very interesting earth-works; but most of these ancient works have been mutilated, thrown down or removed, and I am not advised of their contents. The first three named contained each an entire human skeleton, and nothing else. All these cairns are located on high and conspicuous head-lands, and can be seen a great distance.

Besides these stone-piles there is one other, but of a different form and character, situated near Turkey Creek, on what was many years ago called "the Bradford farm." It is an exact square, with an area inside of more than half an acre, and gate-ways in the middle of either side. The walls were about four feet high, with a base of about twenty feet, composed of stone like the cairns, piled up promiscuously.

Many conjectures have been entertained in regard to the purposes for which this work was intended—some think it was erected by the same people who built the cairns; others attribute it to the early French settlers, when they occupied this valley, to defend themselves from any hostile enemy, whether aboriginal or Anglo-Saxon; and they offer for proof a tradition, among the early Anglo-Saxon settlers, that the gate-ways were supported on either side by stone pillars, and surmounted by an arch of the same. As yet there is nothing satisfactory as to, or in any manner pointing out, the purposes for which it was erected.

The circles, flanked by a ditch and a large area of level land on the inside, one would believe were intended to keep something in and not to keep any thing out; if for the latter purpose the trench would have been placed on the outside, thereby elevating the walls. Every one will at once perceive that it would be far easier to surmount this wall from without than from within. One of these circles is located on the farm of Mrs. Micklethwait, and was two hundred and eight feet in diameter, with one entrance way, which the ditch did not pass, the surface being continuous from without to the area within; the opening in this circle faced the north. Forty years ago this embankment was about three feet high and the trench three feet deep, making the wall three feet higher on the inside than on the outside.

That these were inclosures to restrain and protect some wild animals, which they had been able to domesticate, is very probable; and that they were large and massive can not be doubted; else why these firm and solid inclosures? I know of no reason why the mammoth of that day might not have been domesticated as the elephant of the present, and become as docile, tractable and submissive as that animal now is to the inhabitants of the East. If this conjecture is correct, it is more than probable that these places were made for the safe-keeping and security of these.

tamed animals; that, when needed, they might be made available without the loss of time. These circumvallations are less numerous than those of angular shape, and are made peculiar by the presence of a trench on the inner side, while the latter has no ditch within or without.

Before describing the remainder of the ancient works in Kentucky, east of Portsmouth, I will give the measurements of the Temple mound. The top of the mound is now forty-five feet above the surrounding surface, the outer circle is six hundred and forty feet in diameter—eighty-four feet from the mound to the first, or inner circle—the area on top is fifty by seventy-five feet, the longest diameter north and south. A few years more and civilization will remove the last vestige of this vast pile; for the plow is every year passing freely and deeply over the mound and its appendages. A short time and no traces of it can be discovered forever.

Directly west, one mile and a half, we find a circular embankment, ditch and mound and an angular inclosure. This angular inclosure is peculiar in its form, being an irregular or unequal sided hexagon, and near it is a mound surrounded by an embankment and ditch on the inside. These are located on the farm of Mr. Biggs, near the residence of Benjamin King, Esq., about four miles east of Portsmouth, and like all other ancient works are upon the second terrace. The hexagon measures on its longer sides one hundred and twenty feet, on the shorter, seventy-five feet. When first observed the embankments were four feet high and the ditch three feet deep, but it is now nearly leveled. The circle is one hundred and forty-five feet in diameter with a ditch inside twelve feet deep, the mound is about six or seven feet high, the entrance way across the ditch is on the south side; this work is quite perfect, the embankment is so high and the ditch so deep that horses and plow cannot be made to operate, and no demolition could be obtained without the spade, the mattock, the shovel and a large amount of hard work, hence its preservation to the present time.

About three fourths of a mile west of these works, on the land of Esquire King, is a mound in a good state of preservation, eighteen feet and a half high, without embankment or ditch, and covered by the native forest. An equal-sided and equal-angled square is found on the west side of the Scioto river, near Pond creek, on the farm of Mr. Hayman; this square has four openings, one

in the center of each of its sides. The ovoid circle in its longer diameter is 459 feet; shorter diameter 390 feet; within which is represented an animal resembling the tapyr. The squares accompanying this ovoid circle had, at its first examination, the remains of furnaces or fire-places in each corner—such as broken stone, burnt clay, ashes and coal, but these have all disappeared, leaving a perfectly smooth surface. At this place in excavating the canal, large sheets of mica were found deposited in piles as if intended to be used, perhaps in the furnaces above named; this mica was no doubt brought from the Alleghany mountains, as none of the kind is known nearer than that point. East of the animal mound is a mound with circular ditch and embankment, but nearly obliterated. Near the late residence of the widow Hannah Lucas, is a small circular embankment on the outer edge of Pond Creek bottom, abutting against a high bluff bank. This circle encloses the outlet of a spring which rises near the top of the bank, and is one hundred and seventy-one feet in diameter with an opening or gateway facing westerly, through which the waste water of the spring passes off. I am told there is a mound a short distance up Pond Creek on the farm of the late Jacob Hibbs, but have never seen it. There are the remains of many ancient works from Pond Creek to the head-land back of Unionville, but too much obliterated to describe. This Unionville head-land will be described with the works on Turkey Creek.

The citadel, or central works of this ancient people is located on what is called the county infirmary grounds, and consists of circles, segments, etc. We have first a circle five hundred feet in diameter, with four openings or gateways, north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west. The south-east and north-west are directly opposite the opening of the south-east parallels and the common opening of the north-west and south-west parallels. The south-west gate opens upon the 1,000 acre tract comprised within the south-west and south-east parallels. When surveyed these walls were not over two feet in height, while all others were from three to five feet. Within this circle there are two large horseshoe formations twelve feet in height, and two smaller ones of only three feet elevation; the two larger occupy the greater portion of the area within the circle, being one hundred and five feet across that part of the shoe representing the heel; the smaller, twelve feet across



the same part, and located on either side of the south-east opening. Some fifteen or twenty rods south-east, on the outer side of the parallels extending in that direction, is another of these formations of the same size of the smaller ones in the larger circle, with the opening facing west of south.

Directly east of these works is an irregular, yet symmetrical elevation of twelve feet, with a flat top containing about one-third of an acre, called by Messrs. Squier and Davis a "Natural Elevation." Why they have so designated it, is difficult to conjecture, for there is not any part of these ancient works which more clearly shows the hand of man than this. This elevation, by one of its arms extending east, connects with the Kendall mound, now twenty-eight feet high, having a level area on top of fifteen by twenty feet, being elliptical in form; and was, no doubt, a place of religious observances, used on ordinary occasions and in the same manner as the temple mound was occupied for extraordinary purposes.

East of this mound is situated the Lawson mound, now ninety-two feet high, and used by the Lawson family as a cemetery; it has a flat top containing about one-third of an acre. Lawson mound is connected, by an elevated ridge and an easy grade, with Bitter-sweet hill, which, like Kinney hill, is completely isolated, and separated from the river system of hills by a large intervening space. The east and west sides of this elevation are very precipitous, lying at an angle of between  $50^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$ , difficult to climb and only accessible by the graded ways at either end. It was, no doubt, a spur from the river hills on the north, the connection removed to increase the height of this head-land, now three hundred and fifty-one feet above the level of the town of Portsmouth. That this was once a continuation of the river system of hills, is inferred from the fact that at its most northern part there are, cropping out, strata of rocks like those in the adjacent hills.

In speaking of Kinney hill, I omitted mention of a mound north of that hill, nineteen feet high, with a flat top, the area of which was sufficiently large to accommodate a good sized dwelling, which was erected thereon by a mechanic, who had gained considerable reputation, for that day, as an astronomer. This was quite an eligible location for that study, and the hill adjacent would give the widest range of horizon to be obtained any-where in this vicinity. There is, directly east of

this mound and between the two northern spurs of Kinney hill, a long embankment, now three feet high, which seems to have been intended as a protection to the northern extremity of that hill against the encroachments of any thing not admissible to that locality.

There are, no doubt, works of this ancient people in other parts of this county; but I have had no opportunity to examine any except a mound opposite the residence of A. Marsh, Esq., and the works on Turkey Creek; the mound is very large at the base, but much reduced in height by cultivation. Measurements of the base of this mound, taken a short time since, have been mislaid and are not available.

From Pond creek to the headland back of Unionville are many evidences of this ancient civilization, but so defaced, by the plow, as to be scarcely perceptible. The Unionville headland is marked on its eastern side by three distinct benches of about twelve or fifteen feet elevation each, and on its southern side by an easy gradeway to the top, while on the western and northern sides the ascent is very precipitous. The top is two hundred and fifty-nine feet above the second terrace, or that level on which the town of Portsmouth stands. From this point to Turkey creek there is little worthy of notice, but in the vicinity of the latter place there are many valuable remains, yet, from lack of personal observation I am unable to describe any of them, except one, commencing above the creek and terminating below. The most important part of this work is located on the farm of Mitchel Evans, Esq., extending to the lands of others. Commencing at the foot of the river hills, it passes, in a south-westerly direction across the river bottom two miles, and terminates, abruptly, one hundred and twenty feet before it reaches the Ohio river. This work is elevated about twelve or fifteen feet above the surrounding surface, and resembles the fills we frequently see where rail roads cross low grounds; but unlike the rail road fill, which has room for one track only, this has a surface sufficiently wide to accommodate twenty or more, being nearly fifteen rods wide. About three-fourths of a mile from its northeastern end are two indentations or half circles, extending into the north-western side of the embankment; one leaving not more than two rods of the elevated ground intact; by the other and smaller circle about six rods are left. These half circles are perfect in their outline, slightly depressed where they

follow the base of the elevated ridge, with a slight elevation in the center. The south-western half circle across its two points of termination measures about ten or twelve rods, the other not more than four or six rods. At the lower termination of the south-west segment is a large mound located on the top of the embankment, a portion of its sides forming a part of the ridge and the half circle, while the other parts are placed on the flat surface of the elevation. The height of this mound, when first noticed, was over six feet, with quite a large base. For what purpose this immense pile was erected is difficult to conjecture, at this remote period from its construction; but it seems probable that it was intended as a barrier to keep off any annoyance from the north-west, thereby protecting many thousands of acres of the most valuable land. Or, perhaps, it might have been a kind of break-water to protect a large body of fine bottom which lies directly below, against high floods in the Ohio river.

This appears to be the most western work of the mound-builders in this section of country; none, that I am aware of, occurring for more than forty miles, in the valley proper of the Ohio, and these quite insignificant compared with those which exist from this point to the mouth of the Big Sandy river. Here they seem to stop and no considerable works are seen till we come to those extensive operations which we find at Marietta. No decided evidences of the occupation of this country by this strange people are found west till we come to the territory lying between the two Mississippis. In Adams county is found the great serpent representation so celebrated among archaeologists, and other than this I know of none of importance, until we come to Fort Ancient, on the Little Miami.

In this county, the evidences of this antique civilization are found not only in the stupendous earth-works they have thrown up, but in the condition of the surface which they have left, and in the terraces they have formed along the bases of the hills. Many of their elevations have an inclination of from 45° to 50° or 60°; yet, for ages they have undergone no change; but still preserve their integrity, and hold the same grade, notwithstanding the inroads of civilization. Some of the hills which they have manipulated, and which have stood for ages preserving their beautiful outline, until the present race began to cultivate the surface; when a few years so disintegrated that surface that, in many instances, a plow and horses could not

stand upon it. Even those surfaces that are slightly inclined, since we began to improve them, have yielded to the running waters until they have become entirely changed.

So striking is this peculiarity for preserving earthen surfaces, that we cannot refuse to believe, long years of observation and experience had educated them up to a point which we, with all our boasted civilization, have not yet attained.

It is not probable that the immense population which once occupied this western valley, greatly exceeding what will probably be on it at the end of the next 50 or 75 years, could have lived on the fruits of the chase alone; it is natural to conclude they cultivated the soil, were permanently located, in large numbers, at different points, and, from the evidence we have of their adaptation to handle the surface we must conclude they were good cultivators. If so, they required enclosures to protect themselves and their crops against the incursions and depredations of the large animals which then prevailed throughout the whole country. Many of these animals were very massive, in bulk equaling the rhinoceros, in height surpassing the elephant, with muscles and bones to correspond. The anterior feet of the tapyr were four feet long and a body in proportion. The mastodon was sixteen feet long and twelve feet high. These animals were not to be trifled with, although they were not active, yet their power was immense, and being vegetable eaters required something more substantial than our ordinary fences to bar their progress. If an animal increases in number it must be because it is happier, more comfortable and more secure. Schoolcraft, in his history of the Indian tribes, estimates that in a population which lives on the products of the chase, each hunter requires, on an average, 50,000 acres or 78 square miles for his support. He tells us that in Michigan Territory, east of the lake and north of Indiana and Ohio, there were in the year 1825 90,000 Indians occupying 77,000,000 acres, one inhabitant to every one and one quarter square miles. These estimates will apply all over the United States where the Indians have entire possession. In many of these cases the Indians live partly on subsidies granted them by government in exchange for their lands, and the population was greater than would have been the case if they had lived on the products of the chase. These statistics will, though to a less extent, apply to all countries where the in-



habitants live on animal food obtained by hunting alone. Population, as a general rule, increases with civilization.—Paraguay, with 100,000 square miles, has from 300,000 to 500,000 inhabitants, or about four to the square mile. The uncivilized parts of Mexico contain 374,000 inhabitants on 675,000 square miles, while Mexico proper contains 6,691,000 inhabitants on 833,000 square miles. Naples had more than 183 inhabitants to the square mile; Venetia, more than 200; Lombardy, 280; England, 332; Belgium, the garden of the world, as many as 451. In civilized life the means of subsistence have increased even more rapidly than the population; food is not only absolutely, and I may almost say relatively, most abundant in the most densely peopled countries.

It has been said that any one who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor of the human race; what then shall we say of agriculture and civilization, which enables a thousand men to live in plenty where one savage could scarcely find a scanty and precarious subsistence? There are some who doubt whether happiness is increased by civilization, and talk glibly of the free and noble savage. The true savage is neither free nor noble. He is a slave to his own wants and to his own passions. Imperfectly protected from the weather, he suffers from the cold by night and the heat of the sun by day; ignorant of agriculture, living by the chase; improvident when successful, hunger always stares him in the face and frequently drives him to the dreadful alternative of cannibalism or death. He has no time or inclination to build himself a shelter from the storm, or erect defenses against his enemies; his whole efforts must be spent to keep him from immediate starvation.

Ethnologists tell us that the life of all beasts in their wild state is an exceedingly anxious one. An antelope or a deer in the wild woods has literally to run for its life once in every two or three days, upon an average, and he starts or gallops under the influence of false alarms many times a day. So it is with the savage, who is only man in a wild state; he is always suspicious, always in danger, always on the watch. He can depend on no one, and no one can depend upon him. He expects nothing from his neighbor, and does unto others as he believes they would do unto him. Even in his religion, if he has any, he erects for himself new sources of terror, and peoples the world with invisible enemies.

The position of the female savage is

infinitely worse and more wretched than that of her master. She not only shares his toils and privations, but has to bear his ill humor and his still more ill usage. She may truly be said to be little better than his dog, and very little, if any, dearer than his horse. A traveler among the primitive inhabitants of our world says he never saw a woman's grave among a savage people, and does not think they ever took the trouble to bury them; he believes that few of the women are so fortunate as to die a natural death, they being generally dispatched ere they become old and emaciated, that so much good food may not be lost. He further says, men feel so little attachment for their women either before or after death, that it may be doubted whether they do not value their dogs, when alive, quite as much as they do their women, and think of both quite as often and lovingly after they have eaten them. These facts and the whole analogy of nature justifies us in the conclusion that civilization increases our race, multiplies our enjoyment and is a great assistance to devotional feelings; on the other hand it is equally satisfactory that there is nothing to admire or covet in savage life in any of its forms.

With these statistics and these facts, can we, for one moment suppose that the mound-builders were savages and not an intelligent, industrious and prosperous people? The monuments they have left us testify that they were intelligent, else they could not have laid off those angles, squares and circles with so much precision and correctness. The amount of work done shows they were industrious, and the extent of their labors must convince us they were prosperous and populous, with no hostile enemy to molest or disturb.

From these facts and reasonings may we not fairly conclude that the mound-builders, at the time they occupied our State, were more educated, cultivated and farther advanced in civilization than any of the prehistoric races of the eastern or any other part of the western continent? A careful examination of their works will satisfy any unprejudiced mind that from their number they had an abundance of food, that they had confidence in each other, cultivated the earth, had shelters to protect them from the weather, and respected women sufficiently to bury them side by side with the men. I would not have dwelt so long on this point, but there are persons, some of them cultivated and intelligent, who entertain the opinion that our present race of Indians are the direct descend-

ants of the mound-builders, and but a few hundred years have elapsed since the ancient civilization was in "full blast." If this is correct I can only say the Indian sinks lower in my estimation than ever before. Since in a few centuries he could depart so far from the customs of his illustrious predecessors, and drop into the savage and useless condition in which we find him.

In regard to the origin of these people, there are a variety of opinions other than that expressed above. Some believe they were first created and permanently located between the tropics, in Central America, and from this point spread south, north-east and north, till they nearly covered the whole continent with a dense population. Many there are who claim that they came from Central Asia, south of the Yablonoi mountains, by the way of Behring's straits; passing south by the eastern shore of the Pacific ocean, peopled South America and the north-western and middle portions of North America. There are others who maintain the opinion that they came from Central Asia, north-west; passing north of the gulf of Bothnia to Southern Scandinavia, thence along the 60th parallel of latitude to Labrador, continuing their course south of Hudson's bay. Crossing the St. Lawrence, a south-west course brought them into this great western valley, where for a time they were permanently located, becoming very numerous and still progressing westward. They can be traced through all the States north-west of the Alleghany to Mexico and the Rocky mountains. After being located for a long period in Central America, they spread in all directions till they covered nearly the whole continent. By this time they were greatly advanced in the arts of civilized life, clearly manifested by the wonderful specimens of architecture still in existence through large portions of South America. It may be thought by some that this was a difficult, if not an impossible route for a primitive people, unacquainted with navigation and unskilled in nautical life; but when we reflect that the surface of our globe, as at present constituted, is but one phase of the many through which it has passed, in the long period of time since its creation, can we refuse our assent to the proposition that the eastern continent was once connected by dry land to the western? This is admitted by some eminent geologists. It is settled, and without a peradventure, that where is now water was once land, and where land is was once water. Evidences of these changes are now found all over

this and the eastern continent; besides, since historic times, large tracts of country have disappeared and others have risen. Greenland is believed, by geologists, to be now settling, while Norway is rising. Since our first knowledge of this latter country the waters connecting the Baltic sea with the White sea have disappeared.

Geology shows us that changes are going on continually, both in and under the crust of this globe. Land has been changed to water and water has become dry land; valleys have been raised and hills leveled; marshes have become dry land and dry land has become stagnant water; springs and rivers have disappeared and new ones have burst out in other places; the waters of some rivers have been changed in their course; islands have joined the main land and peninsulas have become islands; and plains have become upheaved into hills and mountains. With these facts before us, can we doubt the truth of the traditions handed down to us from Africa and South America? Plato, in a communication to Solon, says, "among the great deeds of Athens, of which recollection is preserved in our books, there is one which should be placed above all others. Our books tell that the Athenians destroyed an army which came across the Atlantic sea and insolently invaded Europe and Asia; for this sea was then navigable, and beyond the strait where you place the Pillars of Hercules, there was an island, larger than Asia (Minor) and Libia combined. From this island one could pass easily to other islands, and from these to the continent which lies around the interior sea. The sea on this side of the strait (the Mediterranean) of which we speak, resembles a harbor with a narrow entrance; but there is a genuine sea beyond, and the land which surrounds it is a veritable continent. In the island of Atlantis reigned three kings, with great and marvelous power. They had under their dominion the whole of Atlantis, several other islands, and parts of the continent. At one time their power extended into Libia, and into Europe as far as Tyrhania; and, uniting their whole force, they sought to destroy our countries at a blow; but their defeat stopped the invasion and gave entire independence to all the countries this side of the Pillars of Hercules. Afterward, in one day and one fatal night, there came mighty earthquakes and inundations which engulfed the warlike people. Atlantis disappeared beneath the sea, and then that sea became inaccessible, so that navigation ceased on account of the quantity



of mud which the engulfed island left in its place."

Plutarch, in his life of Solon, says that when that law-giver was in Egypt, he conferred with the priests and learned from them the story of Atlantis. The accurate enquirer and historian Diodorus Siculus, who wrote a history of Persia, Egypt, Syria, Midia, Greece, Rome and Carthage, states that, "over against Africa lies a very great island, in the vast ocean, not many days' sail from Libia westward. The soil there is very fruitful, a great part whereof is mountainous, but much likewise champaign, which is the most sweet and pleasant part, for it is watered by several navigable streams, and beautiful with many gardens of pleasure, planted with divers sorts of trees and an abundance of orchards. The towns are adorned with stately buildings and banqueting houses pleasantly situated in their gardens and orchards." Is not this a very fair description of what might be supposed to be the condition of South America under the ancient civilization? Connecting this evidence from the ancient classics with the traditions from Mexican records of a great catastrophe produced by earthquakes and inundations, by which a large part of this continent was covered by water, and a great portion of the population destroyed and the remnant cast down, discouraged, crushed: we come to the conclusion that this was the last of the mound-builders' race.

At this juncture came the *Tartar* by the way of Behring's straits, down the western shore of this continent upon this ancient people, and made an easy conquest. And, as the same race did in China, adopted the arts and customs of the conquered, building up the Aztec dynasty in Mexico and Central America. The history of these traditions is contained in the Toltec mythological history of the cataclysm of the Antilles, called "*Teo Amoztli*."

George Catlin says, "the tribes in North America, Central America, Venezuela, British, Dutch and French Guinea distinctly describe these cataclysms, one by water, one by fire and the third by winds. The tribes nearer the vicinity of the terrible convulsions were cognizant of the whole effects of fire and winds, when the remote tribes were sensible only of the flood of waters and the throes of the earthquakes which went to the base of the mountains." "The festival of Izcalli was instituted to commemorate this terrible calamity, in which princes and people humbled themselves before their Divinity and be-

sought him not to renew the frightful convulsions."

The Southern tribes, on the sea coast, tell, "of the waves coming in from the East; of the thousands who ran to the high hills of the West; and of other thousands who were submerged under the waves of the Ocean." From amidst the thunder and flames that came out of the sea, whilst mountains were sinking and rising, the terror-stricken inhabitants sought every expedient of safety. Some fled to the mountains, and some launched their rafts and canoes upon the turbulent waters, trusting that a favorable current would land them on a hospitable shore, and thus in this elemental strife this ancient civilized people were broken down, scattered and destroyed."

In this great catastrophe were submerged the cities of Palenque, Uxmal and others; which after long submergence are again coming to the surface, some with their walls as perfect as when they went down.

While this destruction was going on in the peninsula of South America, the connection between the western and eastern continents, to wit: the bottom of the Atlantic ocean, was being submerged, and the Appalachian range of mountains elevated; from the Adirondacks in the East to the Ozarks in the West, forming a continuous shore of an immense inland sea, extending from the Rocky Mountains to the Adirondacks, and from the Saskatchewan in the North to the Cumberland in the South; forming a basin whose border commenced at the Rocky Mountains, passing through Rupert's Land, South of Hudson Bay, to near Quebec, across the St. Lawrence, to the Adirondacks, following the Allegheny range through the Cumberland Mountains, crossing the Mississippi to the Ozark Mountains, in Arkansas, and joining the Rocky Mountains.

There was formed the largest inland sea ever known, and the immense tract of country comprised within these limits became in time submerged, and so remained for a long series of years, how long I can not even guess, but long enough to deposit the upper stratum of rocks now found in our hills, and to leave a heavy deposit over the whole surface, of from one to six feet of fine, rich sediment. This accounts for the fact that most of the ancient stone implements obtained in our time are found covered up; some are disinterred six or seven feet below the surface; not from alluvial wastings from the hills, but

from diluvial deposits in still water. This large body of water in the interior, only recently removed (geologically speaking), accounts for the residence of the later Indian on the sea coast; having no hunting grounds, he had to depend principally on fish and mollusks. The western valley not having been elevated sufficiently long to supply his wants, his visits were "few and far between."

The conjectures as to the causes which produced the destruction or dispersion of this people from the valley of the Ohio, are as numerous as the opinions concerning their origin; all differing as to whence they came or whither they went, and what led to their departure. Some attribute their disappearance to numerous enemies by whom they were surrounded and destroyed; others think, some terrible pestilence became general among them and they were thus destroyed. But from the evidence still obtainable it is quite probable they were gradually forced away and compelled to seek a more favorable climate; this becoming too cold for them to remain longer in it. When the "Great Ice age" came down upon them from the North, a few seasons satisfied them that emigration to a warmer climate was indispensable. Accordingly, their line of march was selected and directed in the only course in which an amelioration of the difficulty could be expected or obtained. Hence, we find them journeying to the South and West, through the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. In none of these States do we find any evidence of their becoming stationary at any one point; no extensive works, such as we see in Ohio, are anywhere to be found on their route from Ohio to Mexico; the only evidence of their wanderings is an occasional mound or mounds, for burial or for worship.

The first work of importance, after their exodus, is found in Mexico; the great pyramid of Cholula. Here they seem to have tarried long enough to erect this mausoleum, in which two skeletons only were found.

Until we arrive in Central America, we find nothing to justify the belief that they were permanently settled at any point. Here they improved much in their architecture and method of building, changing earth for stone, in which latter they soon excelled. From this point they soon spread south and west over the southern continent, and as soon as the ice receded, progressing north into Mexico, Southern Arizona and New

Mexico, where are numerous evidences of their existence; scattered over the surface a perpetual witness of their skill in architecture. These works, in the latter two places, are elevated above the level of the great ocean, before described. After prospering and progressing for a long series of years, and becoming an extensive, a prosperous and a wonderful people, having arrived at the zenith of their power, came the great cataclysm, causing almost the entire destruction of their cities, their civilization and their race. The Aztecs coming down upon them, from the North, in their helplessness and desolation made an easy conquest; and, as has been said, adopting their arts and civilization, built up the Mexican confederacy; imitating but not excelling the ancient race.

I have given a description of most of the ancient works in Scioto county. There were some in Kentucky, connected with those on this side of the Ohio, which I may, at some future day, survey and describe, should circumstances permit.

In taking a general view of all the circumstances connected with these antiquities, we are forcibly impressed with the conviction that this whole western valley has, within a short geological period, been deeply submerged; perhaps, more than once; the last time much nearer our present era than many of us are willing to admit. Is it not probable that the absence of a forest growth on a large part of the area of this valley may be attributed to this fact. It is certain that the eastern part of this Ohio Valley was first elevated above the water, and as the flood receded the growth of timber followed the recession of the water; accounting for the absence of forests on the lowest parts of the valley, they being the last uncovered. I do not understand that the valley of the Ohio was densely populated by the present race of Indians, at its discovery and settlement by the Anglo-Saxon; all the early histories of the valley seem to convey the idea that the Indians were far more numerous on the sea coast than in the interior, and, from all the evidence I can procure, it appears to me that the race was not numerous in the West, until they were driven back by the Anglo-Saxon. It appears that this valley was first peopled from the borders of the great sea, on all its sides; and that Indiana, Ohio and Illinois were among the last so peopled.

Six or seven centuries only have elapsed since this valley was covered

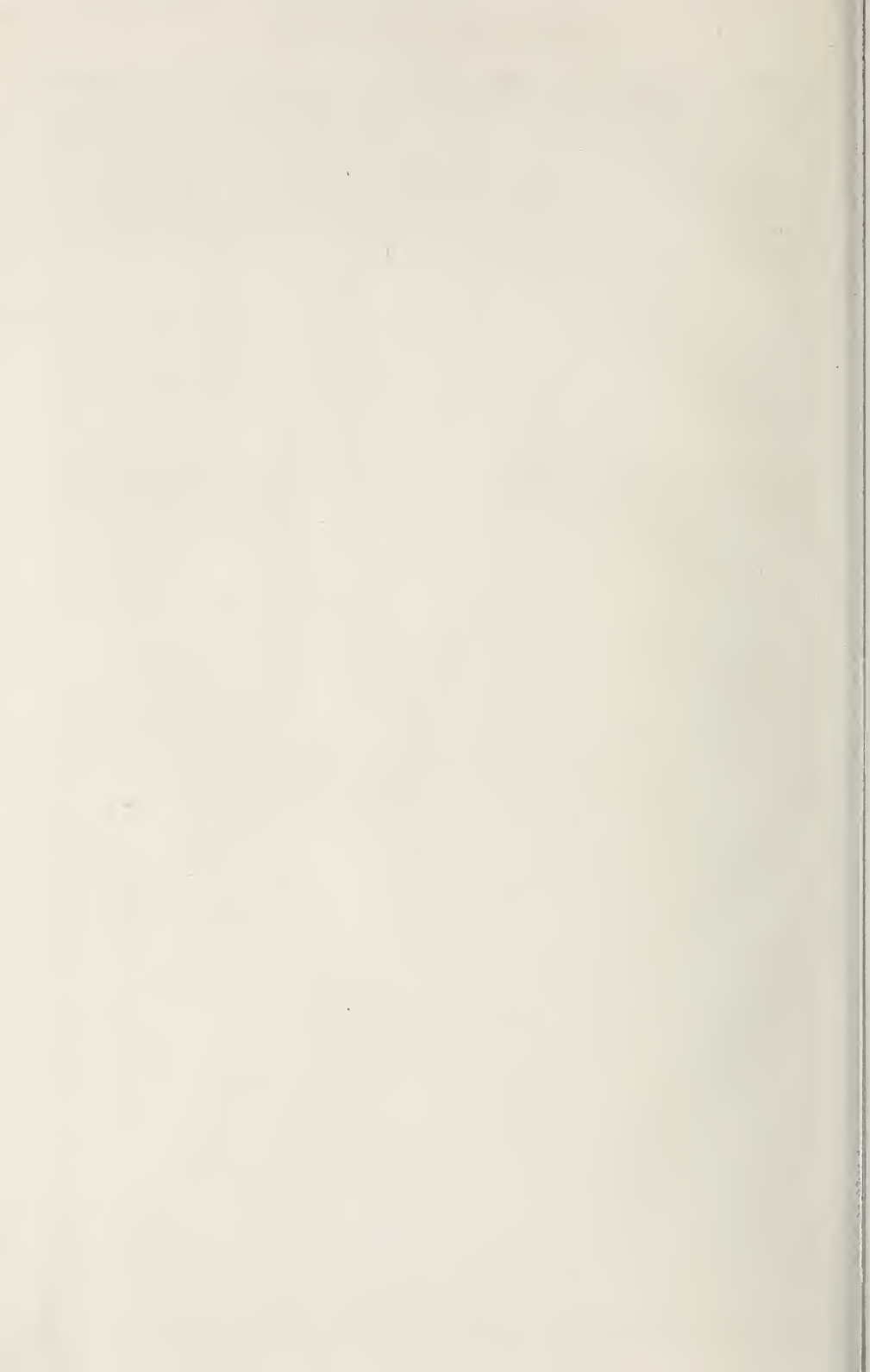
with water; the first outlet being the St. Lawrence, drawing off the waters north of the summit level between the Ohio and the lakes. At a later period, the outlet of the Mississippi relieved this great valley of its surplus water. The higher portions of the valley, being first elevated above the out-flowing water, were first to produce vegetation; and there the forest first commenced to grow, following the receding waters.

The prairies, being the last uncovered, are the last to show a forest growth.

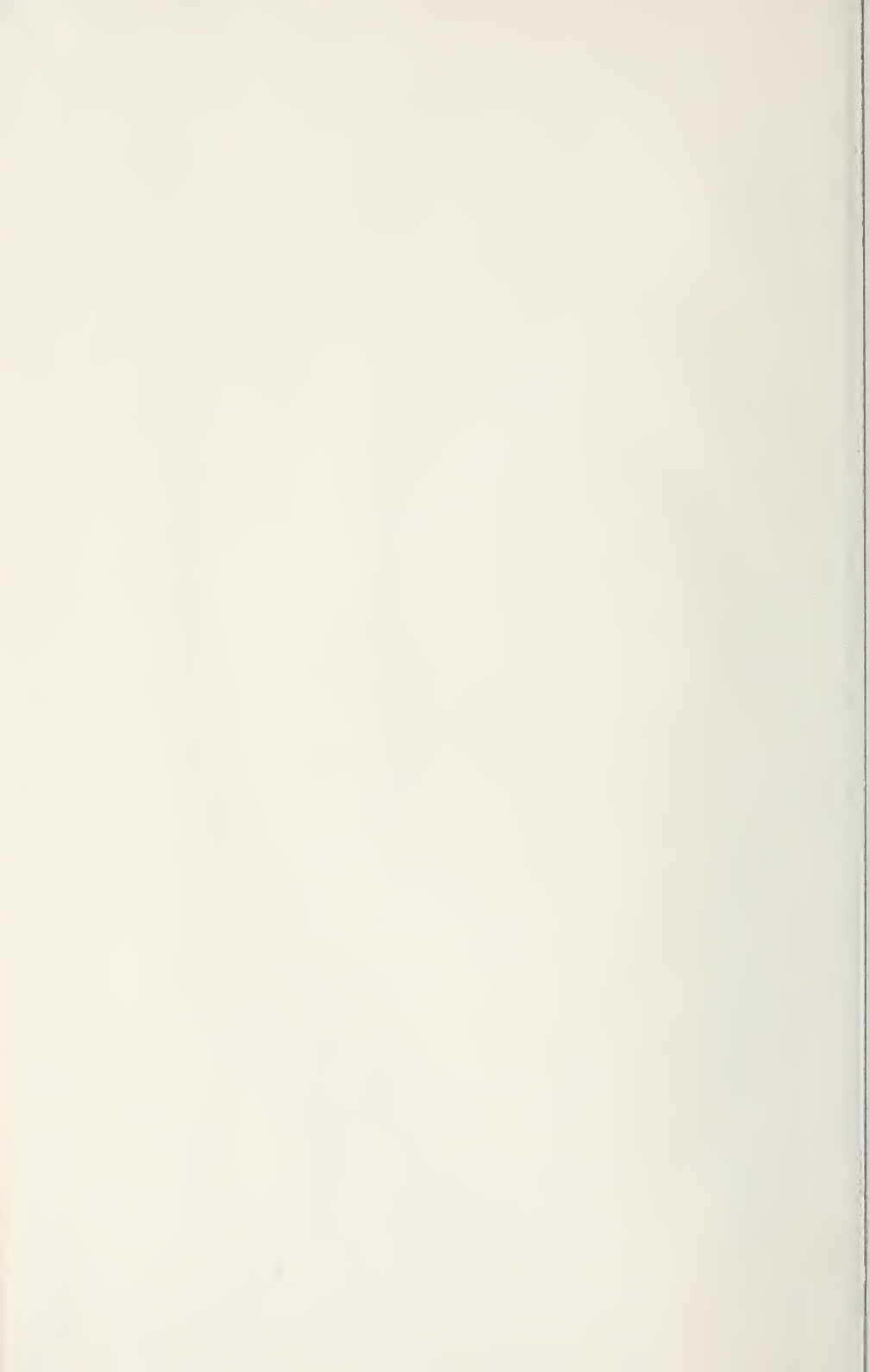
From all the evidence I can make available, I am satisfied this valley was not inhabited by the later Indian, or even habitable but a few years before the discovery of Columbus, and that it was occupied, many centuries before its submergence, by the "Ancient Civilization."

JANUARY, 1875.





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