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Prehistoric Relics OF THE



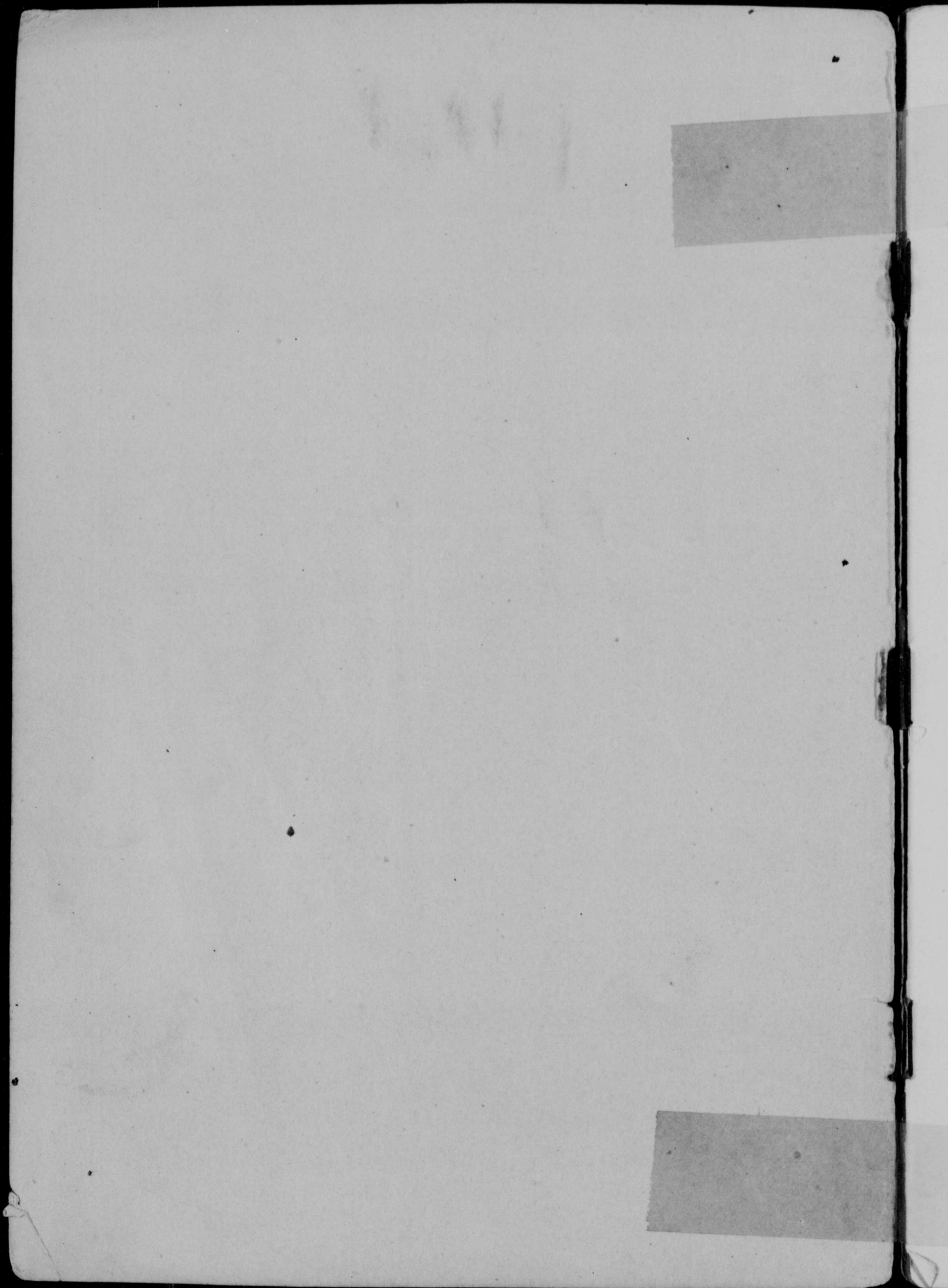
Mound Builders

BY M. E. CORNELL.

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Address the Author,

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.



A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE WONDERFUL
DISCOVERY

— OF —

PRE-HISTORIC RELICS

CONSISTING OF


CASKETS, TABLETS, AND ALTARS

WITH WRITTEN RECORDS OF THE

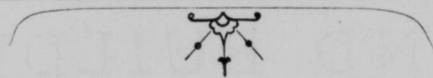
MOUND BUILDERS

BY M. E. CORNELL.

“Truth shall spring out of the earth.”—Psalms 85 : 11.



“RELICS found in the earth do give evidence of conditions differing in many respects from the present. . . . God designed that the discovery of these things should establish faith in inspired history.”—“*Patriarchs and Prophets*,” p. 112.



INTRODUCTORY.

THE last twenty-five years have witnessed the discovery of more ancient relics than a thousand years previous. These relics are of two classes,—the antediluvian and the post-diluvian. Those which are unmistakably antediluvian are found buried deep in the earth, and consist of trees, stumps, chip yards, fireplaces, coals and ashes, wells, skeletons of men and animals, coal deposits, etc. These were buried out of sight by the mighty deluge which changed the whole surface of the earth. Such relics confirm the Bible account of a universal deluge, and serve to refute the geological assumptions of gradual formations of strata during millions of years.

But those relics found on the present surface of the earth, such as ruins of ancient cities, mounds, and earthworks are post-diluvian and go to prove that this continent has been thickly populated by an intelligent and civilized race since the flood, and before our Indian tribes took possession. And this again confirms the Bible testimony that from the Tower of Babel, "The Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth." Gen. 11:8.

INTRODUCTION

The first part of the book is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject. This part is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject. The second chapter is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject. The second part of the book is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject. This part is divided into two chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject. The second chapter is devoted to the study of the general theory of the subject.

RECENT MOUND DISCOVERY.

About two years since, a wonderful discovery of mound relics, was made in the vicinity of Wyman, Montcalm Co., Michigan.

Mr. J. O. Scotford found some ancient pottery, while digging post-holes for a fence, on the farm of Mr. Stuart. From this a curiosity was excited to know what could be found in the numerous mounds thereabouts. When Mr. Scotford found the first tablet or casket, he came into the village as wild with excitement as if he had found a gold mine. The excitement spread, and several who had leisure engaged in digging mounds, with more or less success. Several who had noticed mounds in the fields or woods, dug them and found relics.

Many curious things were unearthed, such as caskets, tablets, amulets of slate stone, cups, vases, altars, lamps of burnt clay, copper coins hammered out, and rudely engraved with hieroglyphics. The caskets and tablets are of sun-dried clay, and are covered with picture writing and hieroglyphics. The caskets seem to be intended as receptacles for the tablets of record. They have close-fitting covers, which are cemented on with Assyrian-like cement, and various figures were moulded on the top,—the ancient Sphynx, beasts, serpents, human faces with head-dress or crowns, etc.

In several of the caskets were found stone types—a veritable printing outfit used more than three thousand years ago. The characters are uniformly the same, though of different sizes.

Of the four or five hundred mounds opened about Wyman, only about one hundred caskets, tablets, and altars have been found. No two of these are exactly alike, either in form, size, or inscriptions. The figures moulded on the covers are the Sphynx, human face, hand, city wall, serpent, calf, idol, Egyptian wolf, etc. But on each and all the caskets, the Pyramids of Egypt are made prominent. They were experts in clay work, and everything wonderful in their traditions was moulded or pictured on clay. Thus we find on their tablets a picture of the Deluge, walls and towers of Babylon, and the two tables of the law given on Sinai. They had heard the story of Mount Sinai, the Deluge, and the Pyramids, and they desired to perpetuate these traditions by writings and pictures. In one casket nothing was found but the charred bones of a child. These we suppose had been brought with them from the Old World, and then sealed up in the casket and placed in the family burial mound.

The caskets measure from ten to twenty-four inches in length, and from about eight to fourteen inches wide and high. After being cemented so as to be air and water tight, they were hidden away in their burial mounds.

The mounds vary in size from twelve to sixty feet in diameter, and from four to twelve feet high. Charcoal and ashes are found in many of the mounds, supposed to be the result of some ancient idolatrous ceremony of burning sacrifices over their dead. But only in a few instances have skulls or bones of skeletons been found,

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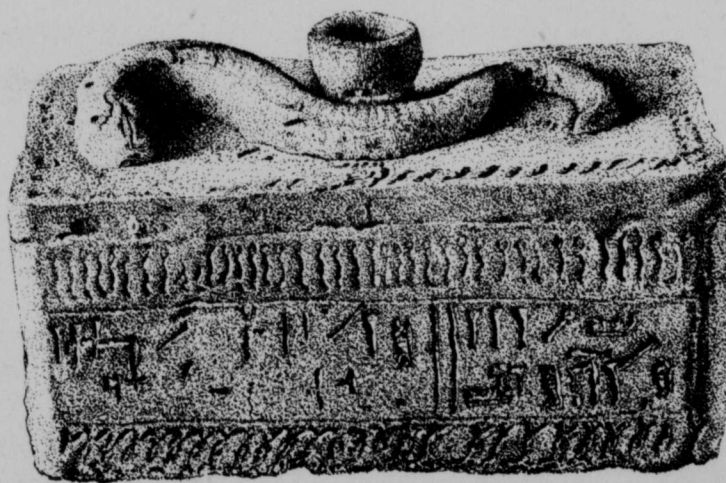
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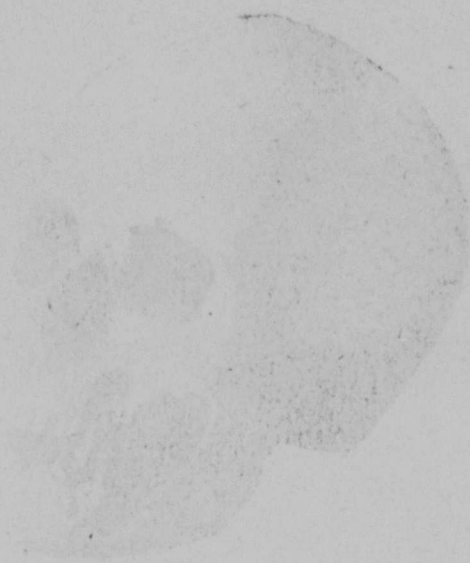
Mound Builders Skull



The Royal Casket



The Serpent Casket



Faint, illegible text or a signature, possibly a name, located below the circular stamp.



Faint, illegible text or a signature, possibly a name, located below the rectangular stamp.



Faint, illegible text or a signature, possibly a name, located below the bottom rectangular stamp.

though in nearly all are seen stains of where bodies have been decayed and dissolved during the long ages. Many professors have visited the place, but none of them could decipher the strange writing. But this is not remarkable, for there are many inscriptions in the Museum at London, Eng., which all the learning of the present age has never been able to decipher. Many of the inscriptions found in Egypt and Babylonia will probably never be translated. After the confounding of language at Babel, "mixture, confusion," and continual change, have been the necessary results characteristic of language, as the different tribes and nations mingled in the succeeding ages. Who then shall say that these mound relics are frauds because the inscriptions are not read?

Scores of the citizens of Wyman and Edmore are familiar with all the circumstances of the discovery, and have been eye-witnesses of the excavating and taking out of the relics; and to them the evidence of genuineness is so clear that doubts are never entertained for a moment.

On this point take as a specimen the fact that a casket was found under the roots of a pine tree which by the concentric circles was shown to be about three hundred years old; and that one of the roots of the tree had grown through the corner of the casket. Three caskets have been found pierced by roots of trees growing on the mounds over them. We found one with the cover broken in by the root of a tree, and the casket was filled with sand. The root was coiled up inside the box, but so decayed that it was broken with a touch. Only the decayed stump of the tree, and a few rotten roots were left. Prof. Wessels, the writer, and three others were present, and took part in

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the digging, and the Professor lifted the casket from its ancient bed with his own hands, exclaiming, "*Gentlemen, this is no fraud!*"

Two years have now elapsed since the first discovery, and the people of that section are still talking of the long ages which must have passed away since that country was alive with a civilized people, — farmers, mechanics, and herdsmen, — who had in that place a large village or city. It is quite probable that these Mound Builders were the first who found their way to this continent after the dispersion from the Tower of Babel.

We learn by these discoveries that this continent was peopled by a race who had a written language. They were not the ancestors of our Indian tribes, for the Indians protest that they never made or buried in mounds, also that they never had a written language. One of the oldest native Indians now living being interviewed by the writer, stated, that "*twice ten thousand moons ago*" his forefathers came from a far country, and found here a white people who had large villages and much cattle. That after some years they engaged in war and the Indians took the country from them.

Mounds and clay tablet writing were common in the Eastern world, and a highway marked by mounds has been traced through Asia to Behring Strait, and across this continent to Mexico. Records in Mexico speak of the remnant of this now extinct race, calling them "Toltecs from the North." And we have now only the relics and remains of cities, forts, canals, reservoirs, and burial mounds of an ancient race who occupied the American continent long prior to the Indians who only held it by conquest.

The village of Edmore is only three miles from Wyman. In an article on the discoveries at Wyman, the editor of the *Edmore Journal*, says: —

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“It is very evident that no one will be able to decipher the written language found on these relics, as the attention of some of our ablest antiquarians has been called to the matter, and they have ignored the discovery, pronouncing it a fraud. There is *no fraud about it*, gentlemen, but you can't decipher the hidden language.”

Rev. Henry Marsh, pastor of a church in Edmore, remarks as follows:—

“If these ‘relics’ are genuine, and are older than the pine stumps under which some of them are said to be found, their archæological value is all that any have claimed for them. But the presumption is so strong against finding here alone on all this continent, any traces of the Egyptian or Assyrian writings or relics of two thousand or three thousand years ago, such as these possess, that only proof clear as the noon-day will convince the world. If they are a fraud, certainly a great many innocent parties, and some, too, who are not over credulous, have been deceived. Our advice is to turn on the light, and be sure to do it in the presence of the most careful and critical observers who can be found. The truth will come out, and this discussion will either make these objects more valuable, or reveal the deception which some one has attempted.”

The light has been turned on. Two years have passed, and several detectives, by the most thorough investigation have failed to find even a shadow of evidence of fraud or deception. Of course it cannot be expected that those who refuse to investigate and have prejudged the matter, will ever be convinced against their will. Candid observers, however, are not satisfied with a professional cry of “fraud,” “humbug,” etc.

The Mound Builders had a government ruled by a president or chief, but nothing in their pictures or writings shows that they had a line of kings. Perhaps they had revolted against the oppression of some of the ancient kings and braved the perils of the wilderness for the sake of civil and religious liberty, as did our

lived Puritan ancestors. They were an industrious people. They worked the copper mines, built forts, cities, canals, and paved roads. They had manufactories of cloth, potteries, and implements of warfare, agriculture, etc. They also had standards of weights and measures.

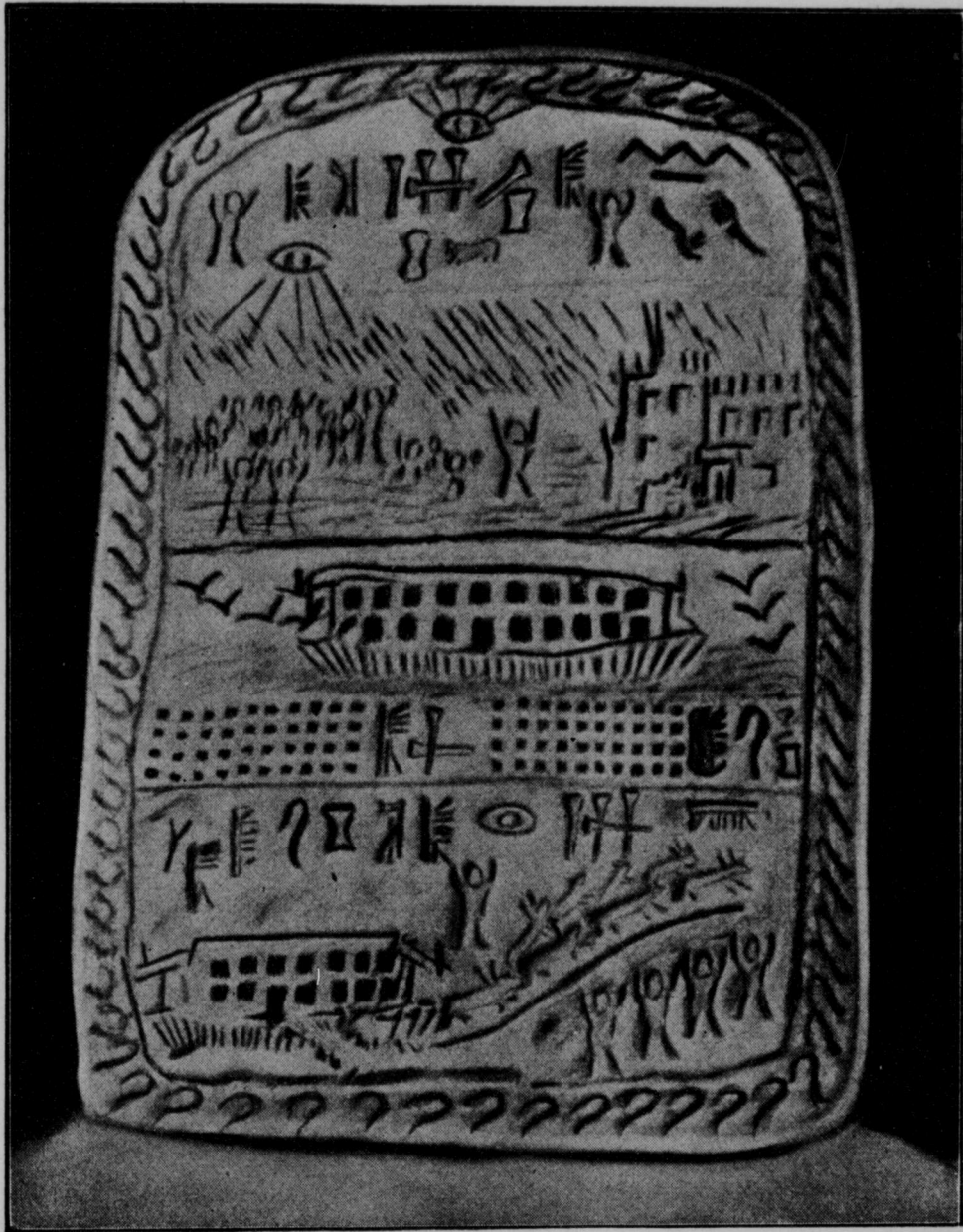
They were probably of the most ancient Assyrian, Acadian, or Phenician origin. But the Indians were decendants of the Tartar tribes. In the Indian we see the exact characteristics of the ancient Tartars. The copper color, high cheek bones, straight black hair, small black eyes, marching single file, etc.

THE DELUGE TABLET.

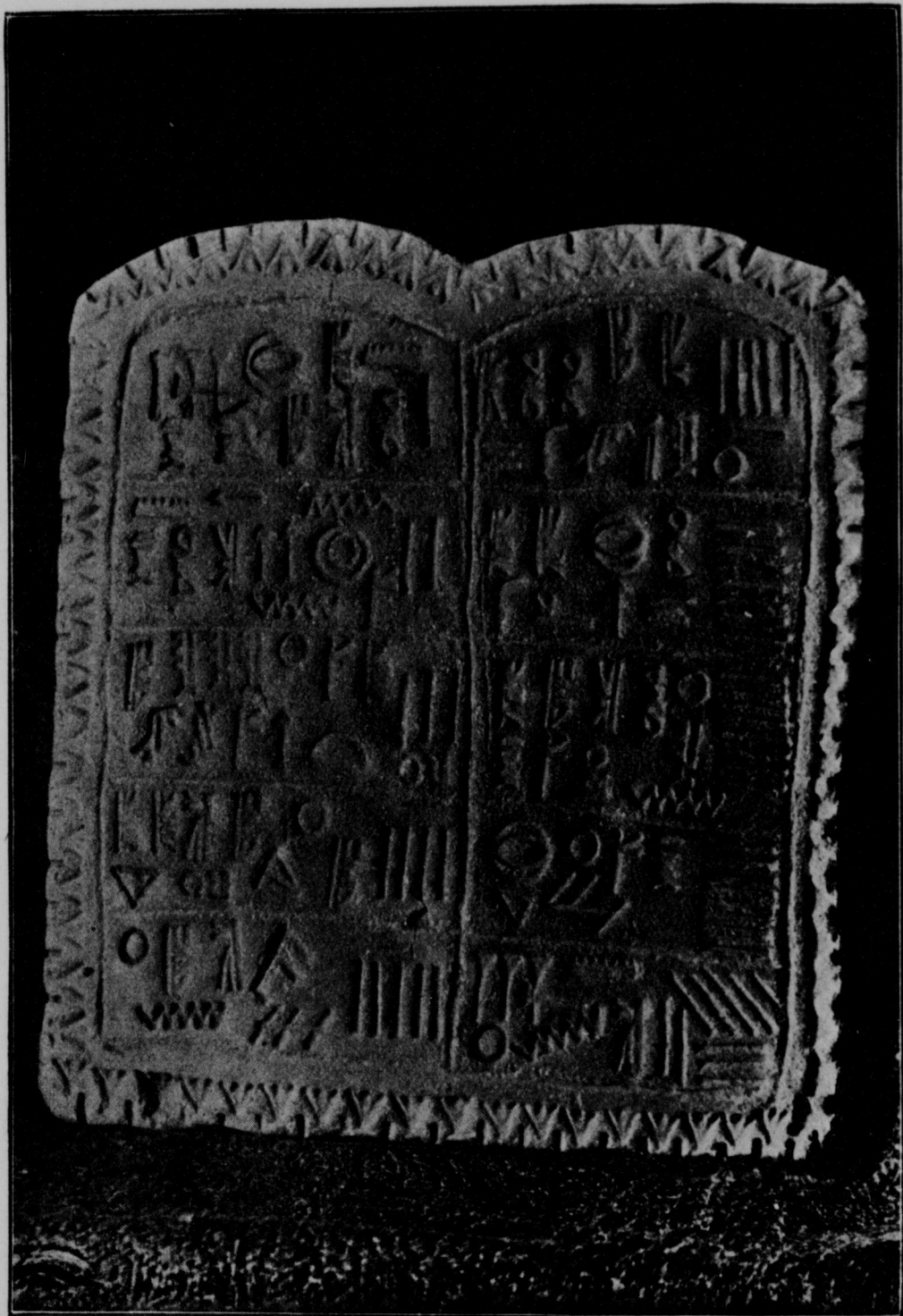
This tablet is about five by eight inches and three fourths of an inch thick. It is made of clay and sun dried. I was present when it was brought into the village from the mound from which it was taken. The characters were so filled with sand that not one could be seen. But as it was brushed with a stiff shoe brush, the sand was removed, and the pictures and characters became visible. All could see at a glance that here was a picture of the deluge.

Professors have been able to make out a few of the hieroglyphics. First we see at the top, over all, the sign for the "all-seeing eye." At the left we see Noah giving his message. The zig-zag character at the right signifies "Great Waters." And this gives us to understand that Noah is talking of the coming flood of "Great Waters."

Next we see the pouring rain on city and country; and right under the weeping eye, which is a sign for "distress," we see the people disappearing beneath the



DELUGE TABLET.



CLAY TABLES OF THE LAW.

waters. Next the ark is floating, and the three birds are going and returning, thus reporting the waters universal.

The next scene in the picture is the twice forty block numbers which we suppose to mean the forty days and forty nights of the rain. And lastly, the ark is resting, an angel has opened the door, the people are coming out, and the beasts also, two and two. As yet no one has been found able to read the writing. But the pictures and hieroglyphics show that the Mound Builders had a correct tradition of the deluge.

THE TEN COMMANDMENT TABLET.

This also is of clay and about the same size. It is in the form of a double tablet to represent the two stone tables of the Law. The inscriptions are in ten separate divisions, five on each table. It is numbered by straight marks. I cleaned off the sand and mold from this tablet with my own hands. These tablets were found in burial mounds, and the evidence of their antiquity was irresistible.

THE SERPENT. CASKET.

In our investigation of the mound discoveries, we had learned that the Mound Builders were sun worshippers, and we were greatly surprised when we found by the discovery of the Serpent Casket that they also idolized the serpent. The serpent (see illustration) was moulded on the cover of the casket with the incense cup. The seal of this casket has not been broken, the owner reserving it until some college or anti-

quarian society shall send a reliable professor to witness the opening. We know it contains tablets, and perhaps a variety of other relics, as by tipping it up, we can hear the relics rattle about inside. This is one of the largest and heaviest of all they have found. Great curiosity is manifested to know what it contains.

Of the origin of serpent worship, we have the following from Eusebius:—

“Taanstus first consecrated the basilisk, and introduced the worship of the serpent tribe, in which he was followed by the Phenicians and Egyptians, for this animal was held by him to be the most inspirited of all the reptiles, and of a fierce nature.”
—“*Eusebius Praef. Evang.*,” book 1, chap. 10.

“The women are not ashamed to place about them *the most manifest symbols of the evil one*; for as the serpent deceived Eve, so the golden trinket in the fashion of a serpent, misleads the women.”

“I have no hesitation in affirming my belief that the *paradisiacal serpent* and the tree of knowledge are the prototypes of idolatry.”—“*Dean's Worship of the Serpent*,” pp. 133, 245.

“The image of the serpent is stamped upon every mythological fable connected with the realms of Pluto. Is it not then probable, that in the universal symbol of heathen idolatry, we recognize the universal object of primitive worship—THE SERPENT OF PARADISE.”—*Ibid*, p. 446.

THE TABLET WRITING.

In appearance, the inscriptions on the Montcalm tablets resemble those on the clay tablets of Nineveh, more than ten thousand of which have been discovered. Over these, Rawlinson and Smith studied for years. Prof. George Smith, the most learned man of his time in the ancient languages, took years to decipher the Nineveh writings, and he tells us that they are a mixt-

ure of Egyptian, Phenician, and Assyrian, and he also tells us that the characters used were constantly changing, which of course greatly increased the difficulties of making translations.

It is not to be expected, therefore, that any but the most learned philologist could read them.

I will give a short extract from an eminent authority on the origin of clay writing. Prof. A. H. Sayce, author of "Fresh Light from the Ancient Monuments," pp. 93, 94, says:—

"The Acadians had been the inventors of hieroglyphics or pictorial characters out of which the cuneiform characters had afterward grown. Writing begins with pictures, and the writing of the Babylonians formed no exception to the rule. The pictures were at first painted on the papyrus leaves which grew in the marshes of the Euphrates, but as time went on, a new and more plentiful writing material came to be employed, in the shape of clay. Clay was literally to be found under the feet of every one. All that was needed was to impress it while still wet, with the hieroglyphic pictures, and then dry it in the sun."

Further, as to the constant change, "Assyria," by A. H. Sayce, p. 93, says:—

"The official script never became fixed and permanent, but changed constantly, each change, however, bringing with it increased simplicity in the shapes of the characters, and a greater departure from the primitive hieroglyphic form. The earliest contemporaneous monuments with which we are acquainted at present, are those recently excavated by the French consul, M. de Sarzec, at a place called Tel-Loh; on these, we see the early pictures in the very act of passing into the cuneiform characters, the pictures being sometimes preserved and sometimes already lost. A comparison of the forms found at Tel-Loh with those usually employed in the time of Nebuchadnezzar, will show at a glance what profound modifications were undergone by the cuneiform syllabary in the course of its transmission from generation to generation."

At what period in Assyrian history these writings found in Montcalm county were made, no one can tell at present. For myself, I have no doubt that they have lain there for three thousand years. Those of us who have opened the mounds, first clearing away brush and trees, claim to be better prepared to judge as to the genuineness of the find than even college professors, who have not been on the ground at all.

Since the Montcalm county discoveries, we have ascertained by books the characteristics of mounds on the eastern continent, and of clay tablets and clay writing in general, and we find there is a striking similarity in this ancient mode of writing on the two continents.

Rawlinson, in his "Second Monarchy," p. 265, says:—

"The clay tablets are both numerous and curious. They are of various sizes, ranging from nine inches long by six and a half wide, to an inch and a half long by an inch wide, or even less. Sometimes they are entirely covered with writing, while sometimes they exhibit on a portion of their surface the impressions of seals, mythological emblems, and the like. Some thousands of them have been recovered, and they are found to be of the most varied character. Many are historical, still more mythological; some are linguistic, some geographic, some again astronomical."

As they had no other way of writing at that early period, it is probable that their legal papers, contracts, land titles, family records, etc., were all on clay.

NO PATTERNS.

In the Montcalm relics we find a confirmation of Prof. James Stevenson's report in Bureau of Ethnology, 1880-81, p. 325:—

“A slight glance at this large collection is sufficient to show that the potters worked by no specific rule, and that they did not use patterns. While it is apparent that only a few general forms were adopted, and that with few exceptions, the entire collection may be grouped by these, yet no two specimens are exactly alike; they differ in size, or vary more or less in form. The same thing is also true in reference to the ornamentation; while there is a striking similarity in general characteristics, there is an endless variety in details. No two similar pieces can be found bearing precisely the same ornamental pattern.”

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It is the same with these relics,—no two are exactly alike. The writing is made with different combinations of the same cuneiform and other characters, interspersed with hieroglyphic and pictorial representations.

“Language in aboriginal America may be pronounced a mystery of mysteries, and a babel of babels. Mr. Bancroft has catalogued nearly six hundred distinct languages, existing between Northern Alaska and the Isthmus of Panama. . . . When we consider that for thousands of years this wholesale division and subdivision of tribes and languages has been going on as the result of ceaseless hostilities, we can easily account for the multitude of languages and dialects on the one hand, and the existence of a thread of unity or similarity on the other, running through them all. Supposing the continent to have received its population from several different quarters, the natural expectation would be that in the course of time this process of general intermixture would result in developing in each language much that was common to the others—hence the foundation for the hypothesis of their unity of origin.”—*“North Americans of Antiquity,”* pp. 469, 470.

DIFFICULT TO DECIPHER.

The following is from Layard’s “Nineveh,” vol. 2, p. 151:—

“The labor of deciphering an unknown character, probably representing an extinct dialect, if not an extinct language, is,

however, very great. Not only is an intimate acquaintance with etymology and philology absolutely required, but at the same time considerable ingenuity, a vast deal of mere mechanical investigation, and a tedious comparison of all known inscriptions in the same character. I have already attended to the extreme laxity prevailing in the construction and orthography of the language of the Assyrian inscriptions, and to the number of distinct characters which appear to make up its alphabet. Letters differing widely in their forms, and evidently the most opposite in their phonetic powers, are interchangeable. The shortest name may be written in a variety of ways; every character in it may be changed, till at last the word is so altered that a person unacquainted with the process which it has undergone, would never suspect that the two were in fact the same."

CONSTANT CHANGE OF LANGUAGE.

Prof. Jenkins in his "Tribes of Israel," pp. 69, 70, says:—

"Let any one compare the old original Hebrew spoken with so much purity by the Jews before the Babylonian captivity, with that spoken by the same people on their return, after the comparatively short space of seventy years, and he will find that it had become a barbarous mixture of the Hebrew and Chaldaic languages, so as not to be understood by an ancient Hebrew, and in a great measure has continued so to this day."

We find the same constant change in our English. The original English, or Anglo-Saxon, is now very difficult to read. As an illustration we give a portion of the Lord's prayer as written at different periods during about eight hundred years.

In the year A. D. 700, the Lord's prayer began thus:—

"Uren Fadar thic art in heofnas, sic gekalgud thin noma, to cymeth thin rick; sic thin whila suc in heofnas and in eatho."

In A. D. 900 thus:—

“Thee ure Fadar the ert on heofnum si thin namage-hal-god.
Com thin ric. Si thin willa on earthan swa, on heofnum.”

About two hundred years after this, in the reign of Henry II, it was rendered as follows:—

“Ure Fadar in heaven, rich
Thy name be hailed eber lich,
Thou bring us ty michell bliss:
Als hit in heavenly doe
That in yearth beene it also.”

About one hundred years later, in the reign of Henry III, it ran thus:—

“Fader thou art in heaven blisse,
Thine Helye name it wurt the bliss
Cumen and not thy kingdom,
Thine holy will it be all don
In heaven and in earth also,
So it shall be in full well de tro.”

In the reign of Henry VI, it began in this way:—

“Our Fader art in heavens, halewid be thi name; thi kingdom come to thee; be thee will don in earth as in heaven.”

In A. D. 1537, it began thus:—

“O, our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Let thy kingdom come. Thy will be fulfilled as well in earth as it is in heaven.”

The discovery of the Rosetta Stone gave a key that enabled philologists to read the ancient writings of certain periods, but many others are still undeciphered. Is it any wonder then, that these records of the ancient Mound Builders have not been easily read?

THE ANTIQUITY OF WRITING.

Prof. A. H. Sayce, in the *Contemporary Review* writes as follows:—

“The Minæans were a literary people; they used an alphabetic system of writing, and set up their inscriptions, not only in their southern homes, but also in their colonies in the North. If their records really mount back to the age now claimed for them—and it is difficult to see where counter-arguments are to come from—they will be far older than the oldest known inscription in Phenician letters. Instead of deriving the Minæan alphabet from the Phenician, we must derive the Phenician alphabet from the Minæan, or from one of the Arabian alphabets of which the Minæan was the mother; instead of seeking in Phenicia the primitive home of the alphabets of our modern world, we shall have to look for it in Arabia. Canon Isaac Taylor, in his ‘History of the Alphabet,’ had already found himself compelled by palæographic evidence to assign a much earlier date to the alphabet of South Arabia than that which had previously been ascribed to it, and the discoveries of Glaser and Hommel show that he was right. . . . The discovery of the antiquity of writing among the populations of Arabia, cannot fail to influence the views that have been current of late years in regard to the earlier history of the Old Testament. We have hitherto taken it for granted that the tribes to whom the Israelites were related, were illiterate nomads, and that in Midian or Edom the invaders of Palestine would have no opportunity for making acquaintances with books and written records. Before the time of Samuel and David it had been strenuously maintained that letters were unknown in Israel; but such assumptions must now be considerably modified. The ancient oriental world, even in Northern Arabia, was a far more literary one than we have been accustomed to imagine; and as for Canaan, the country in which the Israelites settled, fought, and intermarried, we now have evidence that education was carried in it to a surprisingly high point. In the principal cities of Palestine an active literary correspondence was not only carried on, but was maintained by means of a *foreign language* and an

extremely complicated script. There must have been plenty of schools and teachers, as well as of pupils and books."

IMPORTANT RESULTS DESCRIBED.

The Detroit *Free Press* of Jan. 2, 1893, reports Rev. Lee S. Mc Collister's last lecture on the "Contributions of Egypt to Biblical and Christian History." After stating that writings and hieroglyphic characters have been found which antedate the Bible by more than a thousand years, he concludes as follows:—

"But while the discoveries have taken away some of the traditions in respect to the Bible, they have in other instances verified the statements of the Scriptures. Among the records of Egypt we find reference to a famine which occurred in harmony with the one spoken of in connection with Joseph. From writings in papyri and on monuments, we know who the Pharaoh of the Oppression was; and since 1881, we have been able to look on his mummy, and now on his face; the Pharaoh of the Exodus has also been found and seen, and when the records found with and concerning these shall have been given to the world, we shall know more not only about Egypt but about the history of Israel, and our Christianity will be the richer. In the minds of the scholar and discoverer there is the growing belief, founded on the facts brought forth from tombs and temples, that some of our treasured facts in the Old Testament are traceable directly to Egypt, and the influence of the customs, literature, arts, laws, and even religion of the people among whom the Israelites dwelt for 400 years. . . . There are some items of literature that much resemble what we find in the Bible. It is fair to reason that there may have been connection between the two. So it is fair to conclude that some of the language of Moses was influenced by the language of Egypt, or to conclude that our God was with both people in helping each to write its laws and ideas of God. In the 'Book of the Dead,' a manual of worship and morals, a composition of unknown antiquity, portions being found in the wrappings of mummies of periods before the pyramids,

a book well known among the scholars, we have such sayings as the following, which one may compare with the Ten Commandments, and ask, Were the authors of these, unacquainted with each other's thoughts: 'I have not told falsehoods;' 'I have not done what is hateful to the God;' 'I have not murdered;' 'I have not stolen;' 'I have not committed adultery;' 'I have not blasphemed a god.'

"In one of the poems of old Egypt we have sentences which are not very unlike the songs of Israel, 'God is one and alone, and there is none other with him. God is a spirit, a hidden spirit, the Spirit of spirits, the great spirit of Egypt, the divine Spirit. He existed when as yet there was nothing, and whatever is, he made it after he was. God is life, and man lives through him alone.' These and many other sentences can be quoted, and most of them have almost their counterparts in the Old Testaments."

MOUNDS IN GENERAL.

Prof. B. F. Mudge in *Science Observer* says:—

"The mounds of the United States are widely scattered, being found in almost all parts of the country, covering the territory from Western New York as far south as Florida, and from the Atlantic Ocean as far west as the Rocky Mountains, excepting a narrow belt of country bordering on the Atlantic. They are to be found abundantly all over this district. . . .

"Mounds are to be found of all shapes and sizes, but are generally low, flat hemispheres. They are generally in the flat country, but have been found in Missouri on very uneven land, the mounds being all on different levels. In these mounds are always flat stones or slabs, which must oftentimes have been brought from great distances, and are often of considerable weight. Under these flat stones is generally found a layer of yellow clay, which shows traces of hardening by the action of long-continued fire. Owing to this fact, so many of the relics are preserved to us, burnt clay being an excellent excluder of water. The bodies for which the mounds were erected are always to be found in a lying position. . . .

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“There are some mounds that contain no bones; these have evidence of fire and feasting, and may have been of religious importance. In these mounds are found also arrowheads and pottery, none of which is glazed; also, implements of copper, sometimes ornaments of silver; in one case, gold; shells and pieces of mica, the original locality of which has been determined to have been North Carolina. Considering the method, the pottery was well made, and in some of its remains shows that the Mound Builders were not devoid of taste. They had ingenious methods of forming their pottery, and in some cases made attempts at ornamentation.

“That they had the art of weaving cloth is shown by some pieces of that material that have been preserved to us; its texture, the manner of making it, and the instruments for so doing being known. A coarse flax, and the hair of the buffalo, beaver, and wild rabbit were among their materials, while their manner of weaving it was not unlike ours.

“Who were they? What has become of them? The age in which they lived has been approximately ascertained. Trees that have been found growing over their mounds have shown an age of as high as *eight hundred years*; other than this there are no reliable data. . . .

“The Toltecs, who were inhabitants of Mexico at the time of the Spanish invasion, had traditions that they were *descendants of a race that lived to the North*, but who were *driven from their country by other tribes*. The Toltec language having been mastered by some of the early Mexican settlers, it is not at all improbable that there may be in the records or libraries of the monasteries of Mexico, some clue to the history of the Mound Builders.

“But it is certain that they lived in communities, they were partly civilized, they understood the division of labor—having miners, weapon-makers, men of other trades, and farmers; they had some artistic taste, they had religious ceremonies; they were displaced by a warlike race from the North.”

Used

Used

500 trees

ANCIENT RACES AND RELICS.

used.
 "The present race of aborigines can tell nothing of these tumuli. To them, as to us, they are veiled in mystery. Ages since, long ere the white face came, while this fair land was yet the home of his fathers, the simple Indian stood before this venerable earth-heap, and gazed, and wondered, and turned away.

"The antiquity of 'Monk Mound' is a circumstance which fails not to arrest the attention of every visitor. That centuries have elapsed since this vast pile of earth was heaped up from the plain, no one can doubt."—*"American History,"* p. 416.

J. M. Monette, M. D., says:—

"The only authentic records which we have of nations who once inhabited and held dominion in these regions, are the numerous mounds, embankments, and subterranean works, which are yearly discovered by the advance and enterprise of our settlements. These, although faithful records of a race of men who once existed here, like the hieroglyphics of Egypt, are written in an unknown language to us; and from which we can only glean a few incidental facts, by deciphering now and then a sign.

"Portions of the American continent are doubtless as ancient as corresponding portions of the eastern hemisphere! . . . Yet even these portions appear to have been generally occupied by a race of men who lived long before even the ancestors of the Indian found by Europeans in the close of the fifteenth century. Whether these monuments have existed for three thousand years, or only eight or ten centuries, none can tell, . . . or what changes they have undergone in the lapse of ages; but from their antiquity, the change effected by time upon their external surfaces must be great.

used
 "When we take into consideration the vast number of tumuli and remains of earth-works which are found throughout the great valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, as well as their numerous tributaries, we must admit that in ages long past, these regions were peopled by a numerous, enterprising race of men,

who, although they may not have lived in cities built of marble, have erected temples and pyramids of granite, have left monuments of their existence no less durable than the builders of ancient Babylon."—*"American Pictorial History," p. 431.*

REFLECTIONS AT EAGLE MOUND, OHIO.

"Here the Mound Builders said their prayers,—two thousand years ago! To-day the circle is lonely; . . . forest trees crown the circle and the Eagle Mound. These trees do not know the mystery of the mounds or the traditions of their builders. Here, in this haunted spot, other hearts have throbbed with love and ached with pain. Friends have walked and loved in these dusky solitudes; friendships have been broken and hearts estranged; the leaping fires of generous ambition have died away in sullen ashes; bright hopes that glowed like sunlight in the morning have gone down in rayless night and pitiless storm.

"They lived, they planned and schemed; they knew the sting of envy and the bitterness of hate; they worshiped here, and the arching aisles of the forest rang with their anthems as they sang without lining:—

" ' Pthresrexl is x lanxdrechtl pitchtoel,
Brxtl, brxtl away;
Whrxtzl antzchocti xr glechtrdzvcema
Chtozi, chtozi as day.'

"The throbbing hearts are still; the light is gone out of the beaming eyes; the hands that wrought are idly folded in eternal rest; the brains that planned are locked in slumber that no dreams disturb. The busy thousands, the generation succeeding generation that once thronged the solitudes where I stand alone to-day—here is their sepulcher; the air is haunted with their dusky forms; the circle is a charnel house, the spirit of death is in the forest.

"Thus passes the vanity of the world. Our troubles can last no longer than did theirs. From their history let us learn patience. What availeth it to worry? What are the tears that come unbidden to our eyes? Only a little while, and the tranquil peace, the dreamless rest, the slumber undisturbed that

crowned their lives, at last will come to us, and with gentle hands will smooth the furrows from our brows, and take the sorrow from our hearts."—*Burlington Hawkeye*.

AMERICA THE OLD WORLD.

The vast amount of human relics found buried deep in the earth all over this western continent, proves that it was thickly populated before the Deluge. Because the ark rested upon Ararat, it has been inferred that it was built in that part of the globe, but this fact rightly considered, proves it was not built there; for it had floated for five months, and "*went upon the face of the waters.*" It had been carried by the deluge currents a long way from where it was built. Now if we may suppose the ark was made on this continent, and that it was driven thirty or forty miles a day while the waters prevailed, it would have made the 6000 miles to Armenia where it rested. The whole earth had become overcrowded before the flood. Orrio reckons that "one woman can in 210 years become the ancestor of 1,647,086 persons."—"*Ancient Cities,*" p. 27.

The celebrated antiquarian, Samuel L. Mitchell, held that America was the cradle of the human race. In a letter to Gov. De Witt Clinton, he says:—

"I thought it was scarcely worth while to inform a European that in coming to America he had left the *New World* behind him, for the purpose of visiting the old.—"*American Antiquarian Society,*" p. 331.

But if America has not the honor of being the cradle of the human race, as some have vainly supposed, it may with some show of probability be claimed that here was the scene of Noah's warnings and labors. In no other portion of the present habitable

earth, have there been found so many human relics that were unmistakably antediluvian.

But in the relics upon the present surface, we find certain evidence of the early occupation of this continent by the descendants of Noah. The works and relics of the Mound Builders afford sufficient proof of this.

The following extracts from Johnson's "Universal Cyclopedia" are in point:—

Used

"Most of these monuments are mounds and walls of earth. They are usually found overgrown by the primeval forests, and in the living and decaying trees which cover them, we have a record that they have been abandoned at least a thousand years. As they are plainly the relics of a sedentary people, very different in their habits and modes of life from the Indian who occupied all the country at the time of the advent of the whites, they have been generally regarded as the work of a distinct, and now extinct race, to whom the name of Mound Builders has been given. . . . We have proof also that the Mound Builders worked the copper mines of Lake Superior, and the lead mines near Lexington, Ky., etc. The copper found in mounds shows specks of silver, found only in copper of Lake Superior."

Used

Ohio is said to have more than 10,000 common mounds besides the 1000 or more of defensive works. It seems the Builders had a long struggle for existence, but they were finally overpowered, and the race long ago vanished from the earth.

A. J. Conant, in his "Foot Prints of Vanished Races" (see Enc. Brit., supplement), says:—

"The Indian tribes, when first known, had traditions of a superior race whom they had conquered and enslaved."

Mr. Breckinridge in 1817, wrote:—

"The great number, and extremely large size of some of them [cities] may be regarded as furnishing, with other circum-

used

stances, evidences of their antiquity. I have sometimes been induced to think that at the period when they were constructed, there was a population here as numerous as that which once animated the borders of the Nile or Euphrates, or of Mexico. . . . I am perfectly satisfied that cities similar to those of ancient Mexico, of several hundred thousand souls, have existed in this country."

"It must be admitted that whatever the uses of these mounds—whether as dwellings or burial places—these silent monuments were built, and the race who built them vanished from the face of the earth, ages before the Indians occupied the land, but their date must probably forever baffle human skill and ingenuity."—*History of Jackson Co., Mich.*, p. 20.

In the Montcalm discovery several idols have been found. All these are made of clay and sun dried. A similar discovery has been made in Arkansas:—

AN IDOL OF THE MOUND BUILDERS.

"The State Historical Society was enriched yesterday by an image of pottery supposed to be an idol of some pre-historic race, probably the Mound Builders, says the *Topeka Capital*. The idol was found near Aron, Independence county, Ark., and was dug from a mound by relic hunters, together with a number of decayed human bones, copper arrowheads, and broken domestic utensils. It is the property of G. W. Hume, of Strasburg, Mo. The idol is seven inches in height by five inches in diameter. It is rudely constructed, having evidently been formed by hand, or at best, by very crude tools, from common clay, and afterward hardened by being dried in the sun.

"The idol represents a human figure in a kneeling posture, the arms extending at the side. The features are rudely formed, yet notwithstanding this, are not altogether repulsive, the nose being gracefully aquiline and the lips well formed. . . .

"The race whose deity was represented by this clumsy bit of clay, inhabited the Mississippi Valley from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, at a time to which the traditions of man runneth not. Who they were, where they came from, what their manner of life was,

is all a mystery. True, many mounds, excavations, and burying grounds of this lost people have been discovered, but so far they have given but little of their history."

A local paper remarks:—

"Such discoveries as this, with the characters on the Rockford tablet, a stone phallus found in Staniston county, Col., a stone now on exhibition at the rooms of the Academy of Science in San Francisco, form almost conclusive evidence that the ancestry of the Mound Builders in America had a common origin with the Phalliz worshipers of Asia. Were they both descendants of a continent long since submerged in the Pacific, the present islands of which were mountain peaks and elevated plateaus of such continents? Or did they originally inhabit a continent now ice-locked in the Arctic ocean?"

A Genesee county (Michigan) paper gives the following:—

plowed dagger
discovered

"An interesting product of one of the lost arts has just been discovered in this vicinity. Mr. Robert Hon, while plowing on his farm a few miles south of this village, unearthed a perfectly formed and well preserved copper dagger. The blade is nine and one half inches in length, one and one fourth inches broad at the hilt, double-edged, tapering to a fine point, and bearing unmistakable evidence of great skill and efficiency in its maker. No smith or artist of this or any other period of science can show evidence of higher attainment. It is wrought of pure copper, and is as hard to-day as the finest steel.

"From what people or tribe this wonderful relic came, or at what remote age they inhabited this country, and to what plane of civilization they attained, are but matters of conjecture and speculation, as the art of tempering copper suitable to the manufacture of fine cutlery is so remote that it is lost to this age of science.

"Mr. Dean Hawley, of this village, is the possessor of this interesting souvenir. Hundreds have called to examine it."

PEOPLING OF AMERICA.

In the dispersion from the Tower of Babel, the different tribes and tongues went into all the earth. After that judgment they were as anxious to scatter away to far off regions as they were before to concentrate at Babylon. And there is abundant proof that several tribes found their way to this continent at an early date after the overthrow of the tower.

Assyrians and Phenicians were among the first; then a mixed people composed of Tartars and apostate Hebrews. After these, various tribes of Egyptians, Welch, Anglo-Saxons, etc.

The proof is seen in the physiognomy, color, language, and relics found in all parts of the western continent. We will therefore refer to some of the best authors, and leave the reader to form his own conclusions.

Of Cooke's and other voyages, Hale remarks:—

“Among other good purposes, therefore, these voyages have rendered essential services to religion, by robbing infidelity of a favorite objection to the Mosaical account of the peopling of the earth. North America might have been easily furnished with inhabitants from the opposite coasts of Asia; and South America, by means of the great chain of newly discovered tropical isles, scattered between the two great continents, and successively colonized from *Asia*; and also, on its eastern side, by vessels driven by storms, or trade winds and currents, from the shores of Europe and Africa; and indeed the similarity of languages, religion, manners, and customs, in several leading points, furnishes decisive evidence of the descent of all mankind from the same parent stock.”—*Hale's "Chronology," p. 342.*

“The westward wave overflowed Europe, and in later days crossed the Atlantic. The eastward wave populated Tartary and China, and as may be presumed, dashed across the Strait of Behring, and flooded the American continent at a remote period.

To say the least, till the American shores were reached by the westward wave from Europe, the tide of population in America had always set from north to south. The primeval inhabitants of North America were Asiatic in their features, their language, and their arts; and tradition speaks of them as moving from the direction of Asia. These movements of human populations, like radiating streams from the western part of Asia, certainly afford a presumption that the only people of whose movement we have neither history, tradition, nor buried monument, proceeded also from the direction of the Orient.

“From the same quarter of the world proceeded most of our domestic animals and plants. . . . From the northern shores of Europe and Asia the same folk crossed to America.”—*Mitchell's “Sketches of Creation,”* pp. 362, 363.

William Penn, in a letter to the committee of the Free Society of Traders, in London, 1683, speaks of the origin of the North American Indian as follows:—

“I am ready to believe them of the Jewish race—I mean of the stock of the Ten Tribes—and that for the following reasons: First, they were to go to a land not planted or known, which, to be sure, Asia, and Africa, were, if not Europe, and he that intended that extraordinary judgment upon them might make the passage not uneasy to them, as it is not impossible in itself, from the easternmost parts of Asia to the westernmost parts of America. In the next place, I find them of the like countenance, and their children of so lively resemblance that a man would think himself in Duke's Place, or Berry street, London, when he seeth them. But this is not all; they agree in weights, they reckon by moons, they offer their first fruits, they have a kind of feast of tabernacles, they are said to lay their altar upon twelve stones, their mourning a year, customs of women, with many other like things that do not now occur.”
Mombert's “History of Penn.,” p. 68.

In Willson's “American History,” pp. 92, 93, we read:—

good

"We believe that in order to account for the peopling of America, there is no necessity for resorting to the supposition that a new creation of human beings may have occurred here. . . . There are many historical evidences to show that the ancients were not ignorant of the art of navigation. In the days of Solomon, the navy of Hiram brought gold from Ophir, and the navy of Solomon made triennial voyages to Tarshish.

"That some of the northern and rudest of the American tribes early migrated from Siberia by Behring Strait, is not at all improbable. The near approach of the two continents at that point, and the existence of intervening islands, would have rendered the passage by no means difficult. But should we even trace *all* the American tribes to that source, we still ascribe to them an Asiatic origin."

REASON AND NATURE VS. REVELATION.

We cannot better conclude our brief account of the ancient race of Mound Builders than by an extract from Willson's "History of America," p. 94:—

"It appears, therefore, that on the plains of America, surrounded by all that was lovely and ennobling in nature, the human mind had for ages been left free, in its moral and social elements, to test its capacity for self-improvement. Let the advocates of REASON in opposition to REVELATION, behold the result.

"In the twilight of a civilization that had probably sprung from revelation, but which had lost its warmth while it retained some portion of its brightness, *mind* had indeed risen at times, and under favoring circumstances, to some degree of power, as was exhibited in those extensive and enduring structures, which were erected for amusements and pleasure, or worship, or defense. But at the time of the discovery, the greater portion of the continent was inhabited by savage hordes, who had doubtless relapsed from a former civilization into barbarism. Even in the brightest portions, deep ignorance brooded over the soul,

and on temples dedicated to the sun, human sacrifices were made to appease the wrath of offended gods, or propitiate their favor. The system of NATURE had been allowed the amplest field for development ; its capacities had been fully tried, and its inadequacy to elevate man to his proper rank in the scale of being, had been fully proved. It was time, then, in the wisdom of Providence, for a new order of things ; for reason to be enlightened by revelation, and for the superstitions of a pagan polytheism to give place to the knowledge of one God, the morality of the gospel, and the religion of the Redeemer."



TESTIMONIALS.

Any number of these could be obtained, but the following as specimens speak for themselves: —

“WYMAN, Jan. 20. 1893.

“I do hereby certify that on or about Oct. 20, 1890, I was present when Mr. J. O. Scotford opened a mound, and found the first casket. I saw him take it out from under the roots of a pine stump about three feet in diameter. The mound was on section 4 of Home township, Montcalm Co., Mich.

“LEVI BURKHOLDER.”

“WYMAN STATION, July 24, 1892.

“I cheerfully testify that I saw Mr. H. J. Rich take from a mound three tablets, a two-handle vase or mug, and an ancient style of lamp. A stone was set back of them as a witness. I have no doubt these articles so curiously moulded in clay were placed where we found them, by an ancient pre-historic race.

“C. R. SMITH,

“*Justice of the Peace, and Postmaster of Wyman, Michigan.*”

