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*Prehistoric
Discoveries in
Wayne County
Michigan*

—BY—

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PREHISTORIC DISCOVERIES

IN WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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Since the year 1907 certain definite and orderly lines of investigation have been pursued in Wayne County, Michigan, having for their purpose the uncovering and preservation of the remnants of a prehistoric civilization which apparently flourished in this territory and in that immediately contiguous to it.

The beginning of these investigations was the result of an accidental discovery. While exploring a wood lot in the neighborhood of Palmer Park, Detroit's northernmost playground, Daniel E. Soper, a citizen of Detroit, who was a retired journalist and a former secretary of state for Michigan, was attracted to the debris thrown out of an excavation made by some burrowing animal. Examination of the debris developed that it contained some broken pieces of burnt clay pottery. An excavation following the burrow led to the discovery of several objects of antique character, which appear to have been the first of their class taken out in Wayne County by any of the group of investigators who have since become associated with the explorations.

The earliest of these was the Rev. James Savage, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, in Detroit, who, as well as Mr. Soper, had been for many years prior to these discoveries a persistent and experienced collector of objects representing the social and domestic economy of the purely Indian era, and who during this period of his activity as a collector had accumulated and classified a private collection of several thousand specimens.

With these two men there came to be associated James O. Scotford, a painter and decorator, who brought to the

Soper
1907
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newly founded group of explorers an experience running over nearly fifteen years, which began with the uncovering of mounds in the neighborhood of Wyman, in Montcalm County, in 1892, and the recovery therefrom of specimens of the same type as those which were unearthened in Wayne County, the discovery of which caused more or less discussion at the time and subsequently. To these there have been added other enthusiasts from time to time, among them Messrs. Daniel L. Case, a mining engineer by training; Ira W. Welbon, special agent of the Home Telephone Company of Michigan; John T. Belanger, of the same company; Rudolph Etzenhouser, a general missionary of the Church of Latter Day Saints, and the writer. It may not be out of place to remark, in passing, that the writer brought to his earliest investigations a measure of philosophic doubt about the whole matter that might easily have been confused with total incredulity, a state of mind of which he now confesses himself completely cured.

In addition to those mentioned by name, a number of other Detroit persons have been connected with the explorations, whose testimony concerning their results is available, these including several laborers employed upon the excavations, and friends who occasionally accompanied the more active investigators for the gratification of curiosity.

From outside of Detroit several gentlemen have come to participate in the explorations and to observe them from a scientific standpoint, the more prominent of these being Dr. Rowland B. Orr, Curator of the Ontario Provincial Museum at Toronto; Mr. Carleton C. James, secretary to the Minister of Education of Ontario, also of Toronto; Dr. Wm. C. Mills, of the Ohio State University at Columbus; and Dean J. O. Kinnaman, of Benton Harbor College, the present editor of *The American Antiquarian*.

So much for the personnel of the active exploratory program now being carried out in Wayne County.

To proceed to discussion of the territory itself as a whole and of its geographical features, it may be briefly stated that the county has an area of something over 600 square miles, of which about 78 square miles are taken up by the cities of Detroit and Wyandotte, and the various villages which are the centers of aggregated population. Of

the residue of its territory approximately 80 per cent has been reduced to the purposes of agriculture. Of the remainder only a minor part is waste land, while the major part is either original forest or second growth timber areas, or cut over but uncleared land. As the reader will readily understand as this recital progresses the opportunities for archaeological research along the lines now being pursued will become lessened in proportion to the disappearance of the present timber reserves.

The watershed of Wayne County is, naturally, to the Detroit River, the drainage along the margins of that river being directly into it, while three distinct sheds drain the high lands into the greater stream. These watersheds are of Connor's Creek, on the east; of the Rouge River and its branches in the central, northerly and westerly portion of the country; and of the Huron River, on its westerly boundary. The contour lines of the county show variations of level from the Detroit River, which is 575 feet above sea level, to the 900 feet contour line in Northville Township, the extreme northwesterly corner of the county. The surface drift is unusually deep, the only rock outcrop being in the neighborhood of Trenton. For the remainder of the county the drift runs from 92 feet to 180 feet above bed-rock. The surface drift is largely composed of sedimentary clays and shore line sands and gravels.

The lithology of the territory is not very extensive. Outside the limestone outcrop heretofore referred to, which is of a "hog-back" formation, there are no rock outcrops, the occurrence of stone being wholly confined to boulders of igneous origin, the remnants of the glacial drift, and water pebbles, which are the results of sedimentation. Neither slates nor sandstones are found within the county, and no metallic deposits have been found, although a few miles west of the northwesterly border there are some occurrences of bog-iron.

The flora of the county included several varieties of hardwood, the territory having never been the habitat of the coniferous trees. The varieties of the maple (*Acer Rubrum*), the ash (*Fraxinus Americanus*), the beech (*Fagus Sylvestris*), the birch (*Betula*), the bass or linden (*Tilia*), the white and red oaks (*Quercus alba vel rubra*), the walnuts

(Juglans), the hickory (Carya), and the elm (Ulmus Americanus), composed the forests of which the lands were denuded and those which still remain. That these forests continued to thrive for a long period before the present occupation, is apparent from examples given by the late Mr. Bela Hubbard, of Detroit, one of an oak cut in Ecorse in the middle of the last century which was eighteen feet in girth, and from which a fifty-five foot timber, three by three feet in dimensions, was squared; while another cut in Springwells, within the present city limits of Detroit had a trunk circumference of fourteen feet and showed three hundred and sixty annular layers, making its life coeval with the Columbian discovery of America.

The foregoing data is not presented for the purpose of displaying minute or encyclopedic wisdom, but rather that those who may care to study the results of explorations for prehistoric objects within the territory under discussion may have some knowledge of the conditions existent in the territory in which such objects have been found, and in which, no doubt, much more that is of interest and value will be discovered.

The researches of the present day explorers in Wayne County are wholly confined to existing timbered areas or those which have lately been cut over and remain uncleared. It seems to be almost idle to hope that the areas which have been cleared and cultivated will give up their undoubtedly rich content of prehistoric evidence for the reason that, even in the days of deep soil cultivation, the plough-share rarely cut more than 10 or 12 inches below the surface, while the discoveries now being made are of objects buried from one and a half to three feet in the ground. The effect of the plow and the cultivator, supplemented by the action of the rains, the winds and the frosts, has naturally obliterated the mounds, which even in their original form were far from pretentious earth works.

The explorations so far made have covered areas located in several directions outside the city of Detroit. One area which has been most productive of results, lies directly north of the city, in the village of Highland Park. In this 40-acre woodlot there appear to be upwards of 1,200 mounds, of which something more than 400 have been opened. To the

northeast of the city and about three miles from the first-mentioned location another group of mounds has been discovered and about 120 of them opened. To the east of the city, and five miles southeast of the last mentioned area, a 60-acre woodlot has recently been attacked, and about 20 mounds so far opened. Still another productive area a mile north and west of the first mentioned, has been discovered and 30 mounds opened therein. To the west of Detroit, at a point two miles west of the Village of Wayne, a woodlot has been located which contains a larger number of mounds, a considerable number of which have been opened by a pair of youthful explorers and some interesting objects taken therefrom. On the banks of the Ecorse River, about ten miles from the center of Detroit, and in the Township of Ecorse, a small group of mounds has been located, three of which have been opened and have proved productive of objects of archeological value.

It must not be imagined that every mound opened has been a storehouse of objects of interest. On the contrary, the proportion of productive to non-productive mounds has not been greater than as one to ten. The characteristics of the mounds are that they were evidently constructed on the original surfaces of the burial areas, the original soil being slightly hollowed out; that a wood-fire was burned thereupon, whether for the purpose of incinerating the dead or not, being open to question; that upon the ashes and unconsumed charcoals of these fires, when cooled, were placed the objects which are now being recovered, and that the earth surrounding the mounds and undoubtedly other earth from a distance was piled thereupon to produce the tumulus. These tumuli are invariably ellipsoidal in form, the major axes thereof being approximately twice the length of the minor axes, and the direction of the major axes being quite generally east and west. The great majority of the mounds lie, as to their greater diameters, in an east and west direction, if account be taken of the variation of the solar east consequent upon the progress of the seasons. This rule is not, however, inflexible, many mounds showing a north and south direction of their greater diameters.

In all the earth structures which have been identified as true examples there is evidence of the action of the fire

Handwritten:
mound
1810

upon the surface earths or clays, and a stratum of wood ash mixed with charcoal—the latter frequently found in pieces of considerable size—completes the identification of the structure.

The overlying blanket of humus is from four to six inches in thickness, and the underlying soil, when sliced in section by the spade, shows various stratifications consequent upon the changing character of the earths used in the building up of the structure. The judgment of Dr. Orr, Curator of the Ontario Provincial Museum, of Mr. Carlton James, of the Educational Department of Ontario, and of Dean Kinnaman, of the American Antiquarian, all trained workers in this form of research, is that the true mounds, the opening of which was witnessed by them, all show the use of moved earth in their construction. This conclusion is further accentuated by the fact that mounds composed largely of clay have been found built upon a foundation of lake sand or shore gravel, while mounds of sandy loam have been found built upon clay, hard-pan bases. The mounds are almost invariably overgrown with vegetation, many of them being covered with trees of ancient growth.

The mound locations, when originally observed and compared, led to the development of a theory that, at least in the valley of the Detroit River, their location was determined by the limits of the last terrace formed by the recession of the waters into an approximation of the present stream bed. This would have set their period back to a time when the northerly or westerly shore of the Detroit River lay five and a half miles inland from its present location. Inasmuch as the river margin has been encroached upon to the extent of nearly 600 feet during the period of the present occupation, and almost within the memory of aged people now living, the greater recession during the lapse of ages does not seem improbable. Recalling that the present level of the Detroit River is 575 feet above the sea it may be interesting to compare the approximate identity of levels of the areas so far explored. The Highland Park explorations are on the 639 and 640-foot contour line; those east of Detroit are on the 620-foot contour line; those at Wayne on the 660-foot contour line; those at Ecorse on the 600-foot contour line, and some that have been reported in the Town-

This
wood

ship of Plymouth on the 680-foot contour line. The elevation of the last lake shore, as taken from a point at Sand Hill, in Redford Township, is 632 feet above sea level, as determined by the aneroid.

The theory of the occupancy of the last terrace, prior to the recession of the waters, by the race of which these mounds are the testimony, is one which is still far from proved, and it is offered only as a tentative theory, subject to verification or refutation, as further facts bearing upon it are developed.

In the mounds so far opened no human remains have been found. Neither have there been found in the areas investigated or in the territory contiguous thereto any evidence of village life or of earth works which might be conjectured to have been the remains of fortifications. In 1856 a circular mound enclosure, 400 feet in diameter, with an embankment four to five feet in height and with three gateways was found by Mr. J. E. Day, of Romeo, at a point on the Clinton River near that village; and another enclosure of one and one-half acres was located at the junction of the Detroit and Rouge Rivers as early as 1835. But the objects taken from these mounds bear no resemblance either of material or cultural period to those which are now being uncovered.

The objects recovered from the Wayne County mounds are, variously, of copper, sandstone, limestone, burned clay and slate. The copper and slate objects predominate. The copper appears to be true mass Lake copper. Of the slates the greyish black variety predominates, this being of the quality which outcrops near Baraga, in northern Michigan. The sandstone is of fine texture, quite of the quality of the material known as Amherst buff stone, now quarried at Amherst, in Ohio. Red and green slates appear with comparative frequency. Only a few examples of limestone appear, these being of an argillaceous character and having a good polish.

(To enumerate the articles recovered would call for a catalogue quite out of keeping with either the purposes or the limits of this paper. They may, however, be classified rather generally, as follows:

1. Written records, incised upon copper or stone, or

- stamped in clay, subsequently baked or sun-dried.
2. Records partly written and partly pictorial, engraved upon the same materials.
 3. Articles of personal adornment, composed of copper, slate and sandstone.
 4. Articles of use in warfare, of copper and stone.
 5. Articles of domestic use, of copper and slate.

Of the first class there are entire plates of copper, certain panels of stone tablets containing other matter, and entire tablets of sunburnt clay, upon which are inscribed what appears to be a regular language, uniform in character. It is only fair, both to the explorers and those who doubt the authenticity of these examples to say that these writings have not been sufficiently exhibited, either in the original or in photographic reproductions, to competent scholars, to enable them to determine to what linguistic stock or period they belong. Dr. Casanowicz, of the National Museum, has expressed the opinion that they seem to be Assyro-Babylonian in character, but are otherwise unintelligible. Similar off-hand opinions have been given by other scholars, but, largely from the lack of submission of a sufficient quantity of this linguistic data and partially from another cause to which reference will be made later on, there has not yet been given to these writings, either by persons now competent or by some who shall make themselves so by study, the attention necessary unto their deciphering. Suffice it to say, that with such ability for comparison and deduction as has been applied to them by persons wholly unlearned in the mysteries of the hieroglyphs they present the appearance of a regularly written language, following orderly lines of commitment to an enduring material, and composed of a variety of characters, each of which recurs in such great frequency in the text as to indicate that it was a regular and definite form used in writing. Moreover, certain of the characters, or combinations thereof, invariably recur in connection with pictorial representations of certain kinds; as, for instance, a definite identical grouping of characters is marked upon every scene of violence or of apparent harm, while a different identical grouping is marked upon every representation of a pleasant event.

To one particular attention must be called. On every ob-

ject recovered, regardless of whether it is further wrought or unwrought, or of the extent to which it is elaborated, appears a combination of cuneiform characters, sometimes in solid engraving, sometimes in outline, but always identical in form. This character combination appears frequently in the texts which appear on the coppers, the slates and the clays, and from its inevitable presence the explorers have designated it, for want of a better term, the "signature" of the race or the civilization of which these objects are the historical remains.

In the second general classification which the writer has suggested come the most interesting of the recoveries, from various points of view. Their interest lies mainly in their pictorial presentation of the Old Testament story, and, collaterally, in the fact that around them and the question of their authentic character as antique remains has revolved a controversy of more or less violence, its measure depending wholly upon one's estimate of the scholarship and authority of those who suggest a fraudulent character for these examples. Disregarding the controversy for the moment, it may be stated that these records, whether on copper or slate, are almost wholly pictorial. Where they appear on copper, but one side of the tablet is utilized. Where they appear on slate, both sides of the tablet form their back-grounds. The subjects of these inscriptions are of three classes, namely, those which are purely scriptural, in the light of our knowledge of the Old Testament as a record of ancient history; those which depict scenes of war, and, lastly, those which are composed of what seem to be circular annual calendars, their circumferences being divided into the thirteen moons, each of the spaces so divided carrying a cuneiform legend of greater or less extent.

Of the scriptural stones three groups inevitably appear in sets, representing their various historical stages. These series respectively depict the creation of the world, the creation and fall of man and the Noachian deluge. The world-creation series represents in a first panel a Creator, with outstretched hands, pointing toward a sky, in which appear a sun, a moon, and several stars. In a second panel the Creator is represented in the same attitude, while before him stretches a sea with ruffled surface and a sky from which rain appears

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to be falling. In the third panel of this series the Creator, with hands again out-stretched, has before him delineations of trees. In the fourth panel, the Creator again appearing, there are representations of birds flying in the air and animals on the high land, while in waters below are delineations of fishes and crocodiles. All of these pictures appear on one tablet.

The second of this class of serial picture tablets delineates the creation and fall of man in four stages or panels. In the first of these the Creator is drawing from the earth the recumbent figure of a man. In the second stage, the Creator is represented as drawing a woman from the earth, the man being in the back-ground. In the third stage, the Creator is absent, the man and woman are before an apple tree, around the trunk of which appears a serpent. The fourth panel of this class of serial pictures shows the Creator driving away the man and the woman. This last phase of this class of pictures is subject to variation in the different examples, one of the tablets showing the woman recumbent, as if in a faint, and the man in flight, while all the rest show both man and woman in flight jointly.

The third of this class of serial pictures is usually in four stages, though in some examples it is abbreviated to three, the first stage hereafter enumerated being omitted. This first panel shows sometimes one, sometimes two persons, in the act of address or petition, a few rude animal figures and some hieroglyphic marks completing the design. The second panel depicts the building of a ship on stilts, in one case with four male figures, one of whom is engaged in actually building, while three others are passing timber. The third panel shows the ship floating in the waters, from the surface of which emerge the heads and arms of an apparently drowning people. The fourth panel shows the ship beached, with a dove near her bow, four male figures on the beach, a gang plank extended and animals disembarking, while at the bottom appears a rain-bow. On either side of the third panel appears a cross-hatching, composed of five parallel lines, crossed by eleven other parallel lines, and forming in each instance forty spaces or scores. In some tablets a rayed sun is placed near one of these scores and a crescent moon near the other; on others a single hieroglyph represents

the idea which the sun was meant to convey, while another character, the exact reverse of the first, represents what the crescent moon was intended to stand for.

Besides these serial pictures there are others which suggest a relation to incidents which come to us in our civilization through the medium of the Old Testament. A description of these pictures may indicate their possible meanings to the reader. They are as follows:—

1. Representations of a man with a club striking down another with a shepherd's crook.

2. Representations of a hand passing tablets from a sky to a male figure on an elevation.

3. Representations of a person standing over an infant lying on a sacrificial altar, with his arm in the attitude of striking, while before him is a representation of an angel with outstretched hands and directly under the angel a picture of a ram in a clump of brushes.

4. Representations of an infant in a basket, sometimes unaccompanied, in other instances in the presence of male and female figures.

5. Representations of priests in the act of sacrifice.

6. Representations of a funeral cart with a body placed upon it and accompanying figures, apparently of mourners.

7. Representations of two angels kneeling vis-a-vis, with their wings meeting above their heads in arched form, while before them is a casket or box.

8. A representation of two sets of priests in apparent conflict, one set sacrificing before a flaming altar, the other before idols.

9. Representations of a structure of several stories in process of construction, the working-men being represented in conflict and pushing each other to the ground, while beneath the general picture is a subsidiary one representing a bird exhibiting many tongues in the presence of many male figures.

One needs only to be familiar with the history contained in the Old Testament to appreciate the similarity of the stories depicted in these pictorial representations, with the events described in the earlier books of the Old Law.

Beside these pictures apparently portraying the story of

the Sacred Scriptures, there are several which have been denominated "battle tablets." These show almost invariably a helmeted infantry, using bows and arrows, the perspective of the line being very good, standing in battle formation before an opposing force of long haired men, armed with pikes or spears. The battle tablets show, in several cases, on their reverse sides, calendars, from the moons of which lines are drawn to representations of warriors, lunar crescents and bows and arrows, suggesting to the tyro,—to whom none of those engaged in the explorations claim to be superior,—that an attempt is being made to record and convey the story of the deaths of chieftains and the incidents and periods of their demise.

Of the third arbitrary classification of the writer, many examples are presented. A considerable number of pendant ornaments from the size of miniature gorgets or breastplates, down to the size of an ordinary water pebble pendant, elaborated on the obverse with the rude picture of the helmeted head of a man or the coiffured head of a woman, occur in the produce of these explorations. The gorgets are in several cases somewhat elaborate and carry full figure pictures of persons in the act of sacrifice or in the attitude of displaying emblems of the type of the modern mace or other symbol of apparent authority. In one case the figure of a priest is in confrontation with the figure of an idol of the type of the Egyptian Anubis. As a rule, however, the representations on the pendants are limited to a single figure on the obverse and a hieroglyphic mark on the reverse.

Outside the pendants, at least two copper crowns not completely circular, but of sufficient arc to encompass the head, designed in the forms of birds in spread, and marked with cunieform characters, have been recovered. A single example of a copper head band ornamented with punch marks and carrying the inevitable hieroglyphic signature, the ends perforated to provide holes for a binding thong, is among the objects which the explorers have taken from the ground.

Of the writer's fourth arbitrary classification many examples have been recovered. This class is made up of articles used in warfare. These include copper spear points of greater or less dimension, one of so great a size, nearly thir-

3rd

Egyptian

Crown

4th

teen inches in length, that Gov. Chase S. Osborne, of Michigan, himself a traveled observer of no mean ability, and who has interestedly inspected these objects, has suggested that it may be a battle standard rather than a weapon. The ordinary spear points are from six to nine inches in length, some of them provided with bent hafts for handles, while some others show only crotches at their point of contact with the shaft, apparently provided to facilitate strapping them thereto with leather thongs. Battle axes both large and small have been secured, one in the Savage collection being highly ornamented, measuring eight inches on the face of the bit, and the conformation of the material being such as to provide a haft to bind around the helve by which it was manipulated. Another battle ax of perfect classic design, though smaller, was unearthed by Mr. Carlton James in his explorations in November, 1910, in the Highland Park location. A curved sword blade or cutlass of copper was taken out in the same locality and showed an extreme blade surface of twenty-three inches from the point to the guard, a notching in the latter providing for its attachment to whatever hilt or grip-handle was used by the warriors of that civilization.

The knives which have been recovered, also of copper, vary in dimension and may have been instruments of warfare or objects of domestic use. All of them are curved, all present sharp edges after the centuries that have preceded their exhumation, and they are uniformly notched at the end of the blade to facilitate binding them to hilts.

To the fifth arbitrary division of these examples of a previous civilization, namely, those which apparently represent its domestic economy, the largest number of the objects recovered must be referred. These include, besides the copper knives to which the writer has just referred, many objects of copper and slate. Among the coppers may be mentioned a saw 12 inches in length, with a haft for a handle of the modern cross-cut type, which even to-day will cut ordinary red cedar; a left handed scraping tool, apparently useful for fleshing hides; a cold chisel with flaring bit, octagonal stock and battered head; a copper box with curved ends, made of a single plate, with mortised ends and sides, which would give joy to a modern tinker; and a great variety of slate im-

plements, all of them elaborately ornamented, many of them highly polished by use, the speculative utilities of which were that they were employed for the rubbing of untanned hides into pliable leathers. Objects of sandstone, which appear to have been grease lamps, and of burned clay, which were ornaments or receptacles for articles of value are quite recurrent.

Quite as interesting as an example of the domestic remains are the smoking pipes, which have been recovered. No citizen of the kingdom of Nicotia can repress an interest in the great variety of objects left by his prototypes of antiquity. From every burial area which has been explored pipes have been taken out, some of sandstone, some of burned clay, as sound as the historic "T D.," some of slate and some of serpentine rock. Nearly all are ornamented. A whale's head is carved on an oval example, the bowl of another is fabricated out of the head of a long snouted dog, while still others are curiously modeled in the simulacra of grotesque faces.

An idea of the prevalence of pipes among the prehistoric plunder recovered may be gathered from the fact that in the collection of the Rev. Father Savage there are no less than seventeen, in that of Mr. Soper thirty, and several other examples in the minor assemblages of the products of the civilization under discussion. Invariably they bear the "signature" heretofore referred to, which identifies them with the rest of the objects recovered.

It is worthy of note that the fabrication of these objects shows a high state of civilization. The copper objects are inevitably composed of hardened copper, hold an edge and ring like bells. The various degrees of tempering or hardening may be recognized by the metallurgist when it is stated that from the variety of objects every note of the scale may be struck. A casual examination of a few specimens by Mr. W. P. Putnam, of the Detroit Testing Laboratory, the foremost analytical metallurgist of his city, led to the conclusion that the objects were undoubtedly tempered, and that some form of heat treatment, now unknown, had been employed to convert them into their existent state.

In the cases of the slate implements of apparent domestic utility every example shows that much time was spent upon its ornamentation.— They are bonded with ornamental

Pipes

Shiny
Copper

lines, geometrically precise, engraved with helmeted heads or the figures of birds or animals, and invariably marked with the racial or cultural signature, if they contain no other mark.

And thus, apparently, through their implements of peace and war, their written and pictorial records, their forms of ornamentation and their concepts of beauty, do the people of a civilization long gone by,

"From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,
And hold in mortmain still their old estates."

A regrettable circumstance in connection with these explorations and the studies which have been given their results has been a series of attacks made upon their authenticity. The destructive critics have been two, one Mr. Armond H. Griffith, Director of the Detroit Museum of Art, who is a descriptive lecturer upon art subjects, possessing no authority upon either archaeological or ethnological subjects, and whose criticism may, therefore, be immediately dismissed; the other, Mr. Francis H. Kelsey, professor of Latin, at the University of Michigan. Prof. Kelsey has devoted much attention to Roman archaeology, and in that field must be acknowledged to be, if not an authority, at least an adept. It is not clear that he has ever been a student of American archaeology.

Since the beginning of these explorations and the disclosure of their results, Prof. Kelsey, in articles in the New York Nation and The Archaeologist, has thrown doubt upon the authenticity of the recoveries and the good sense and good faith of the persons who have been devoting their time, their industry, their means and such abilities as they possess to the pursuit of what has been to them a highly interesting subject from a scientific view-point, and one that should command, if not the respectful attention, at least the complaisant toleration of their contemporaries who profess to be members of the company of scholars. In his enthusiasm of denunciation Prof. Kelsey has gone so far as to repeatedly make use of the term "forgery," which, not being a direct Latin derivative, may be a term of which he does not appreciate the full meaning.

These attacks of Prof. Kelsey, coming from a man of supposed authority on the ground, made it extremely difficult to enlist the attention of scholars engaged in this peculiar

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field of research. Since the attacks began, however, the tremendous amount of material recovered, the diversity of objects secured, the variety of their material and the unique fabrication of each object unearthed, has put beyond the necessity of defense the indictment that a factory for antiquities was being maintained, or that a group of educated men, considered ordinarily intelligent in their respective professional and commercial avocations, were being victimized.

As a consequence it is being now found possible to attract the respectful attention of men of scholarship to these pursuits and to their results. Under the circumstances, neither surprise nor incredulity concerning these discoveries is to be wondered at; but vicious and uninformed antagonisms are certainly to be regretted, as making more difficult the work to which honest and painstaking gentlemen, who have no conceit concerning their own attainments, have committed themselves.

It is quite conceivable that, in the second or third civilization from this, the monuments of present-day refinement may be destroyed, or buried in the places where they are now erected, and that some highly developed race, nomad to-day, may succeed to the estates of culture now enjoyed by those who presently possess them. In that day and generation, it is equally conceivable that the remnants of this civilization will be uncovered, dissected and interpreted by the students of its successor, who, having spanned the gap of time elapsed since their grinning ancestors swung by their prehensile tails from the trees of the ancient forests and pelted each other in their innocent and playful way with the convenient cocoanut, will consider their own cultural period a distinct improvement upon all of its predecessors. When that time comes it will have its unconvincible critics, the writer makes no doubt; mayhap among them some coffee-colored, cock-sure, Kaffir caviller, who from the security of his chair in a foundation at Bonga-Bonga or Canoodle-dum, will give battle to those who dispute his theory of the approximate identity of the Noachian ark myth with the much more recent one relative to the voyage of the Mayflower.

There will be earnest investigators and students then, no doubt, as there are to-day, to be discredited and black-

guarded by the accidental occupants of the seats of cultural authority. The results, however, will be neither greater nor less than they are to-day, when the truth is only discoverable from patient investigation and studious comparison, rather than from the off-hand dicta of any self-satisfied and self-important claimants to the knowledge of all things and some others.

Of a different class of criticisms, though unfavorable to the antiquity of the finds, are those recently made by Prof. Frederick Starr, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. James E. Talmadge, Curator of Deseret Museum, Salt Lake City. Prof. Starr made a cursory examination of the objects uncovered during a day's visit to Detroit in the summer of 1911. His examinations of the collections and of the mounds were necessarily hurried, and it is possible that the celerity with which his observations were made, may have influenced his decisions. Be that as it may, Prof. Starr must be credited with having at least come on the ground. His conclusions are against the antiquity of the objects, are based upon the mixed character of the writings found on the slates and coppers, and led him to a mild insinuation that—despite the good faith of the explorers—some one had at some time attempted a gigantic fraud upon the present-day explorers. A similar conclusion was reached by Dr. Talmadge, who devoted some time to personal inquiry.

With all respect to the high character of both these scholars it is quite impossible yet to disregard the evidence of one's senses, so far as it relates to the uncovering, under conditions wholly precluding fraud or imposition, of objects of diverse character and material from a great variety of locations. It is equally impossible to imagine these recoveries as the "plants" of an ancient disciple of Thalia, content to await the lapse of some centuries for the laugh to follow upon his joke.

The criticisms aside, these facts are well established by the testimony of a great number of people who have participated in the explorations in Wayne County, namely; That there have been unearthed from no less than half a dozen different locations objects similar to those unearthed in other counties, composed of hardened copper, slate, sandstone and limestone; that these objects are recovered from timber

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 areas containing trees from ten to two hundred years old; that to follow the ash strata of the opened graves has called for the chopping away of tree roots representing many years of growth; that these objects are ornamented with drawings, flutings and decorations quite out of touch with the culture of the American Indian; and that they carry in great quantity hieroglyphic writings which their finders cannot read and which they have so far found nobody capable of interpreting. This statement represents the sum of all the claims made regarding their discoveries.

Meantime, regardless of the critics, the explorers who are at work in Wayne County and the other sections of Michigan which seem to be rich in these prehistoric remains keep on exploring and recovering, in the hope that when there come the day and generation of him who may read the secrets locked in the hieroglyphs presently mysterious, that student may have the largest possible store of the materials of history from which to construct the record of the past; and that when he asks, as Bryant asked,

“Are they here —

The dead of other days?—”

the reply may be made to him, as Bryant made reply,

“Let the mighty mounds

That overlooked the rivers, or that rise

In the dim forest, crowded with oaks,

Answer. A race, that long has passed away,

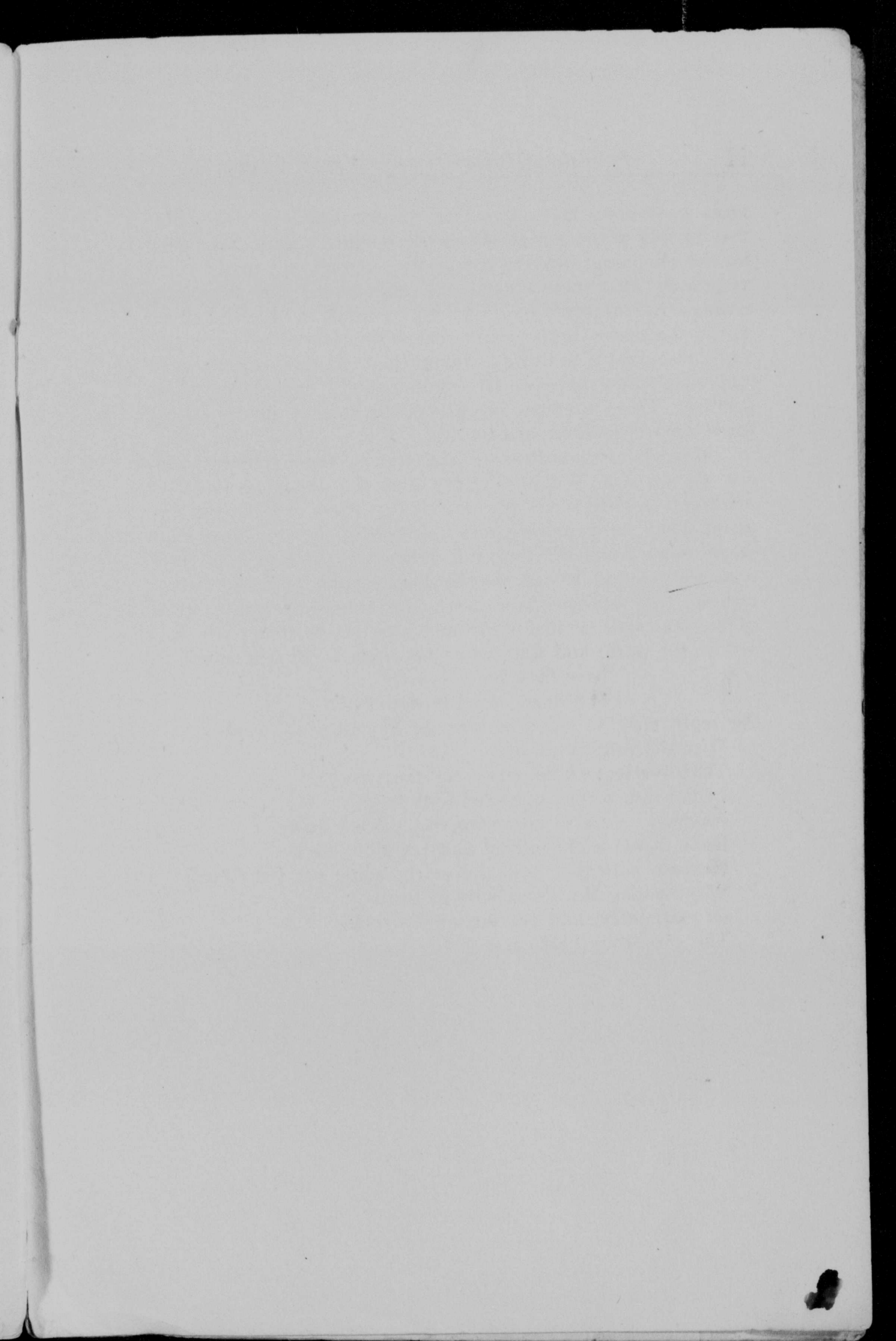
Built them; a disciplined and populous race

Heaped, with long toil, the earth, while yet the Greek

Was hewing the Pentelicus to forms

Of symmetry, and rearing on its rock

The glittering Parthenon.”



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