

AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES:

READ BEFORE A JOINT MEETING OF THE

PIONEER ASSOCIATIONS

OF THE COUNTIES OF

Franklin, Muskingum and Licking,

AT THEIR

CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY,

AT

Pataskala, Ohio, July 4, 1870.

BY SAMUEL PARK, ESQ.,

OF MARSHALL, ILLINOIS.

TERRE-HAUTE:

O. J. SMITH & CO., STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

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WHEN called upon by Mr. Smucker, Secretary of the "Licking County Pioneer Association," to treat more fully in my Pioneer Papers on this mysterious fort and mound question, I said, and thought, that there was nothing in that on which I could write an article that would be of any interest to the public. It was a subject on which I had read and thought but little, and what little attention I had given to the subject, had impressed upon my mind the impropriety of any attempt on my part to penetrate the darkness or solve the mystery with which they are surrounded; because men of science, and the most profound antiquarians of our land had exhausted their skill in vain research to solve the mystery of their existence; military men had searched in vain, for a system of tactics adapted to their situation and character. Almost every effort had but tended to increase the mystery and intensify the gloom with which they were surrounded. Hence I dreaded to say anything about them, further than to merely mention the fact of their existence in a portion of Union Township. But this did not seem to satisfy Mr. Smucker. He thought the subject had not been exhausted, and "wanted a paper on the mound question." Having been quite familiar, in early life, with the location of several fine mounds in the northeast part of Union, as well as a few in Granville Township, and knowing that some of them afforded a fine prospect of Licking Valley, I determined to ascend to the top of one on my old farm, (now the Licking County Infirmary Farm), and look for something to write about.

When I reached the summit of the mound, I was astonished at the change that had taken place since I last visited that elevation, some twenty years ago. Much of the timber had been removed from the surrounding country, especially to the west, which had greatly extended the view from this point. While sitting on this elevated tumulus and contemplating the beauty of the scenery, I began to call to mind the several mounds with which I had been familiar in other years, within a radius of two to three miles, and being well acquainted with the topography of the surrounding country, I was astonished to see that they occupied so nearly a common level on the hilltops, and that, with a little more timber removed, all were in plain view from the position I then occupied; and further, that of some ten or more that I could then call to mind on a territory of some twenty-five or thirty square miles, nearly if not quite all of them could be seen from each and all the others; and further, that while there was an extensive common view to all of them, yet each mound overlooked a valley or plain, more or less of which could not be seen from any other one. To make this more clear, let me specify a few cases, to-wit: From the position we now occupied, we had a delightful prospect of the country for many miles around us, extending west into Harrison Township, north into Granville, and to the east and southeast the whole Licking Valley was spread out be-

fore us. Looking over the numerous hilltops of Hog Run and Upper Clay Lick, the sight was lost in the hilltops beautifully delineated on the horizon, extending in a semi-circle from the hills of the Rocky Fork to the Coal Hills of Perry county, while the special view from this mound, and not to be seen from any other, lies to the northwest. Three or four mounds on a ridge along the line between Union and Granville Townships command the view, respectively, of deep valleys lying on the north and south sides of this ridge, while one on Stephen Gill's farm, and others on the farms of Aaron Hillbrant, Mrs. Owens, Mr. Jones and John Haynes, South of Auter Creek, and others on the lands of F. Dunlevy, Wesley Belt, Henry Lytle, and others north of the railroad, each and all have their special views not to be seen from any other mound, and still are all in plain view from the mound above Union Station on the Infirmary Farm. These mounds are all situated on high hills, but we have found since that there are many other mounds on the same territory, generally situated on slight elevations at the head of ravines, on the banks of streams, &c.

The discovery of these peculiarities began to open a new train of thoughts on the mound question, and begat a desire for further investigation. We next visited some of the hills north of the Raccoon Valley; among which was Fort Hill, so called. This is one of the highest elevations belonging to this range of hills, and overlooks a considerable district to the northeast, as well as an extensive portion of the Raccoon Valley. On the top of this hill we found a fort enclosing some fourteen to sixteen acres of land, and in the middle of it another with a deep moat inside of the wall, which was less than one hundred feet in diameter. The inside of this is considerably elevated but appears to have been dug down by some person seeking for treasure or curiosities. We have often been surprised at the vain hopes of some persons that they might find a fortune in some of these mounds. Can any sane person for a moment indulge the thought that there ever was a people or nation so ignorant as to erect such conspicuous piles to secrete treasure, with any hope of its safety! Nor since silver and gold has been used by man as the representative of wealth, have we any account of any nation or tribe that buried with their dead any considerable amount of the precious metals, or anything else of lasting value. It is all lost labor to seek in such places for treasure or valuable jewels, for they are not there. These works were raised for no such purpose. There may be found a few trinkets, placed there with their dead, a thousand years since the erection of the mounds, by some of the wandering tribes of our native Indians, but beyond this you might as well seek for the treasures of Babylon in its ruins, or for the gold of Solomon's Temple that so dazzled the eyes and astonished the rich Queen of Sheba, or that excited the covetousness of the Assyrian hosts, by a search among the rubbish of that ruined pile, as to seek among these monuments for the treasures of these ancient Americans. We must find some other use for these works more in harmony with the human mind, or of its conception of the nature and relation of things, than that of treasure tombs or military works, or acknowledge that we knew nothing about them. We shall assume that they are the monuments of a civil government, with but little of the military or mortuary character about them, and will try our theory by the works themselves, and leave it to others to judge of its plausibility.

We next visited "Alligator Hill." Here we found quite a curiosity. It

is a pretty fair artificial representation of the alligator, or great American crocodile. We did not measure this singular tumulus, but would suppose it to be about two hundred feet long, and the length of its legs from forty-five to fifty feet each. Its tail is curled to one side, and its length from the juncture of the legs is some one hundred feet. It is situated on a high hill, and affords a fine prospect of the surrounding country. This animal-shaped tumulus has probably been eight or ten feet high, and may have been a representation of the tribal ensign or coat of arms. Some have thought that it was an object of worship, but there is nothing in the surroundings that will justify such a theory. There may have been, and probably was, a small temple of worship on Fort Hill, but not here.

I think that several of the mounds in Union might be seen from this position if the timber were removed from the hills south of the Raccoon Valley. From this point we selected several other distant elevations, on which, we thought, there ought to be some kind of artificial works to justify the theory we were about to adopt. Some of these we have since visited and found mounds of greater or less magnitude at each point. We next visited an elevation about a mile south of Union Station, on the old farm of Henry Hillbrant, deceased. Here is a double-walled fort, about seventy-five rods in diameter, with two fine mounds inside of it. The walls, with the ditch between them, have occupied a base of some fifty feet. There is some forty rods of the circumvallation that is in the timber and has not been ploughed, but the balance of it has been in cultivation about forty years and is in many places nearly effaced so that it is at present difficult to determine how many or where the openings were, but from appearances I think there have been gates or openings to the north, the east and the southeast, toward three fine springs that are some thirty or forty rods distant at the base of the hill. From the present appearance, one, if not all of these springs, may have at some former period broken out of the side hill near to if not within the line of the works, but at present they are all at the base of the hill. The prospect from this elevation is very fine, and embraces nearly the same territory as that from the mound on the Infirmary Farm, with a fine additional view to the south, and a view of a portion of Cherry Valley, that is intercepted by hills from those mounds north of the railroad. The fine mound near the site of the old Twining mill on the Raccoon branch of Licking river, the mounds in the upper part of Cherry Valley, and those in the Auter Creek Valley, near the old English mill, as well as the works at the Fair Grounds, and others on the Cherry Valley, all would come under the view from this elevation, though from five to seven miles distant. From this point the hills south of Newark appear to be in a Valley, while those farther east appear to loom up above them. From this elevation, I selected some seven or eight objective points or elevations, lying to the south and southwest, and ranging from one to six miles distant from this point of observation, on which I thought there should be mounds or watchtowers to effect a complete view of the whole face of the country, especially to overlook the great valley of the Pataskala river above Hebron, but on none of which did I know of the existence of any artificial works. I was sufficiently well acquainted with the country to know in what particular neighborhood each of these elevations was situated, and to satisfy myself on this point, I obtained a horse and started to examine those several locations. On the first I found a fort.

(so called), about two hundred feet in diameter, and a mound in the middle of it. This is on the farm of Aaron Hillbrant, and has been in cultivation for many years, but still is well defined. The second point was a ridge on the old John Ruffner farm, about one and a half miles northeast from Licking Church. On the west end of the ridge I found a fine mound some ten to fifteen feet high, and about forty rods east of it is an oblong, oval fort one hundred and fifty by two hundred feet in diameter, and on the east end of the ridge, and about a half mile from the former, is another fine mound, and the remains of an artificial pool near to it. This pool has been about one hundred feet in diameter, and the bank thrown up to form the pool well defined, but has at one point been swept away, so as to nearly drain the pool. The top of the ridge where this is situated is so narrow that the water falls off to the north and south from the banks of the pool. With the broken part restored, this pool would still be some six feet deep. These works are all in the timber, and have not been disturbed by the plough. My fourth point was a high hill, a half mile west of Licking Church, on James Black's land. Here, too, is a fine mound that has recently been opened in search of treasure. My fifth point was on Thomas Stone's farm. Here too is a mound that can be seen in some directions for several miles. My sixth was a ridge lying between the residence of William Moore and that of Joseph Rhodes. On the east end of this ridge have been two small mounds, that have been nearly blown away by the winds, and near the west end there is another small mound. The seventh was on the lands of Mr. H. Kagy, near to the former residence of the late Col. W. W. Gault. Here, too, is a mound; but the last three or four mounds have the appearance of never having been finished. My next point was on the high lands, in the vicinity of Nelson Buckland's. This point I did not visit, but was informed by Christopher Winters, Esq., that there is one on his farm, which joins that of Mr. Buckland. I put up overnight with my old friend and associate of my youth, James Wells, Esq., who with his excellent wife were pioneer children, and enter fully into the spirit of these pioneer resurrections. May they live to the full close of the century, so much of whose toils and triumphs they have already shared. My next point was on the west line of the township, and south of the C. O. Railroad, in the vicinity of where Asa Brown lives. This is usually called a low, wet, beach country, but is in reality an elevated plain or ridge, that marks itself clearly on the horizon, when viewed from other distant elevations. I started for Mr. Brown's and traveled up the Pataskala or south branch of Licking river, to the town line. Near the banks of the river I found several small mounds, but I found my principle observatory, or signal mound, on the farm of Mr. Clark, a half mile south of Mr. Brown's. I again called on Mr. Brown, to whom I was already indebted for many items in my Pioneer Paper, but I did not find Mr. Brown so well posted on the mound question, and perhaps disposed to be a little skeptical as to my theory. But after spending an hour very pleasantly, and partaking of an excellent dinner with a wedding party, I again started north on the town line till I crossed the railroad. Here we found mounds on both sides of the township line. From here we traveled west and north till we reached the old Columbus road from Granville, near to the residence of Col. John C. Alward. On this trip I found several mounds, some in the vicinity of Ezekiel Cunningham, Esq., but the largest is on the farm

of Zephaniah Alward. The summit of this would command the view of a large scope of country if the timber were removed, and signals could be easily exchanged between this and those on the hills near Hebron, or with those about Union Station, and perhaps with not more than one repeating, to Columbus. I put up with Mr. John Deeds, on York street, and spent one day in this vicinity, and found several mounds. From here I traveled south and crossed the South Fork into Aetna Township, and down the county line, south of the Bloody Run Swamp to the Baltimore Road, thence to Hebron, and along the East line of the township, back to Union Station. In this trip, I sometimes laid down fences and rode through farms, and sometimes would leave my horse and walk a mile to examine some objective point, and I have found these mounds everywhere on this territory, both on the hills and plains, in sufficient number to overlook the whole surface of the land, and I do not believe that within the bounds of my research there can be found a single fifty acre lot that can not be viewed from some one or more of these artificial mounds. I have examined the location of more than one hundred, and have not found a single exception to the rule that each one is so situated as to command a view, more or less of which cannot be seen from any other, except in a few instances where they were double or in pairs. This rule, however, would not hold good where they are found on a level plain in clusters, which is sometimes the case. On this trip I met with Mr. Jesse Thompson, of Hebron, but formerly of Fairfield county, Ohio, who informed me that when he first settled on Walnut Creek, in Fairfield county, about the beginning of the present century, there was a graded road, easily traced in the timber; that it was some thirty or forty feet wide between the ditches, and appeared to be as old as the forts and mounds, and he always thought it to be a road leading from the works near Newark to those at Circleville, as it was on a line between those points. But I have met with nothing of the kind, nor do I suppose that, in the present improved state of the country it could be found.

There are some of these mounds that appear to be in an unfinished state, and some that must have been intended to answer some other purpose than that usually assigned them, or of signal points. There are several mounds on the lands of Mr. Dunlevy, and some of peculiar character. There is one west of the public road that is by way of eminence called "the mound," because of its being larger than any other in that vicinity, that I will try to describe. It is situated a half mile north of the creek and nearly a half mile west of the public road, on a gently undulating plain. This mound is about twenty rods in diameter at the base, and although it has been in cultivation for many years, and every effort made to reduce its height by ploughing around it, (for it is too steep in its ascent for a team to pass over it), it is still some thirty feet high. On the south side of this mound there appears to have been a land-slide that has considerably reduced the grade of the ascent on that side, throwing it a little out of a regular circle, and giving it rather a semi-oblate form. On the north side, there has been a narrow graded road for ascending the mound. This has been nearly destroyed by cultivation, but still can be seen. But the great curiosity in connection with this mound, and a peculiarity that I have not found in any other, is the remains of a massive vault in the southwest part of the mound, that has extended nearly or quite to its center. From the present appearance, this vault must have been not less than sixty by

one hundred feet, and possibly much more than that. By its falling in it has left the top of the mound in the form of a crescent or semi-circle, and doubtless has greatly reduced its altitude. I think that the bottom of the vault has been nearly on a level with the surrounding plain. There also appears to have been a narrow subterranean passage through the mound, from the north side of the mound to the vault. This is indicated by a narrow sink in the walls of the mound, that extends from the vault to the northern extremity of the mound. This transverse sink in the wall is yet clearly manifest, though the plough has passed over it several times. The length of this subterranean passage to the main cave or vault, must have been nearly two hundred feet. How the roof of this great artificial cavern may have been sustained, whether by an arch of sun-dried brick, or otherwise, is left to conjecture; but if all other mysteries were solved that now surround some of these works, we could soon find means to sustain the roof of the caverns. Some thirty or thirty-five rods south of the mound is an excavation of considerable extent, from which a portion of the material to erect this pile was doubtless obtained. The soil of this mound is very fertile, while a portion of the surrounding plain is comparatively sterile. There are other tumuli around this at various distances that are in plain view from this. Among them are some in an unfinished state, but others are complete. But none other possessed the threefold character of watchtower, signal point and magazine for stores. From a half mile to a mile and a quarter to the northeast from this singular mound, is a series of knobs, or tumuli, of not less than fifty on an area of some three hundred acres of land. Most of these have always been considered by the citizens natural elevations, though there are among them several well defined artificial mounds, and some things in others that give them the appearance of a series of artificial works, or perhaps rather, natural elevations with artificial termini. While looking among these hillocks, which range from eight to fifty feet in height, and of various forms, I noticed that from the side of one of them a tree had fallen, that had turned up a root of some six feet in depth, which would reach to the level of the surrounding plain. This I examined, and found that it had brought up from the bottom a stratum of rich black soil, apparently of drift formation, while above it was a mixture of clay loam and gravel. This mound was not less than a hundred feet above the alluvium or bottoms of Auter Creek, and nearly a mile distant from its channel. This stratification of earth in this tree root showed not only that this was an artificial tumulus, but that it had been erected on the original surface soil. Not more than two hundred feet from this is found the largest mound that I have seen in the county, or that I have ever seen, except Everman's Mound, in Jasper county in the State of Illinois. But there are in this State some larger mounds. This is nearly round, between three and four hundred feet in diameter at the base, and, I should think, fifty feet high. There are two or more other well defined artificial mounds on my father's old farm, now owned by Wesley Belt, but the greater portion of these elevations are on lands that were owned, when I left this State, by Reuben Linnel, Justin Hillyer and James Cunningham, all of which I believe is now owned by Mr. F. Dunlevy.

There are among these knobs some ponds of water which I think are artificial pools. Though the land there is generally quite porous, and the water passes away quickly, still, from some cause, some of these pools are

very retentive, and hold water nearly or quite the year round. As we go west from this singular cluster of elevations, along the line of Union and Granville Townships, we find quite a number of mounds, some of which are clearly in an unfinished state while others are neatly and scientifically completed.

If I now resided among these works as I did in former years, and felt the interest in them that I have since the middle of April last, I should investigate them with as much care as I was capable of. I recollect to have seen, while residing in this State, other fine mounds in different parts of this county, particularly in the townships of St. Albans, Burlington and McKean; and in Mr. Smucker's "Historical Sketches" we are informed that they are found quite numerous in the townships of Licking, Bowling Green, Franklin, and Hopewell. Some of these are represented to be on a grand scale, and of a peculiar and interesting character. Several of these mounds were composed wholly of stone, and very large. We have also seen them down the Licking Valley as far as Zanesville, and on Jonathan's Creek, also east of Lancaster in the county of Fairfield, and in the vicinity of Columbus in Franklin county. These all seem to have belonged to the same series or cluster of works.

I find in a late publication by John C. VanTramp, entitled, "Life in the West, with a view of the States and Territorial Regions of our Western Empire," an elaborate report of "A Party of Literary and Scientific Gentlemen from Natchez," who examined the works on the Mississippi below that city in May 1838; and another from a "Tourist," describing the works on the Great American Bottom, in the State of Illinois, below the city of St. Louis, that are very interesting as literary productions, and if the design of their publication had been none other than to advertise the literary skill and ability of their authors, they were commendable and worthy of perusal, but as to their throwing any new light on the subject, as to their nature and origin, or of the original design of these works, that will at all harmonize with the unbiased understanding of thinking men that have ever been familiar with these strange works,—it is not there; but on the contrary some of their conclusions are rather laughable.

In nearly or quite all these mounds that have been carefully examined, more or less broken pottery has been found, and in the small mounds clustered together on level plains, many human bones, sometimes mingled with the bones of beasts, of birds and of fishes. But in the scattered mounds, or in those on the hilltops, but few human bones are found. It is often the case that bones are found near the surface on the sides of the large mounds. These were doubtless placed there by some of our wandering tribes of Indians, long since the erection of the mounds, while some of those at the bottom of the mounds were likely placed there at the building of the work, or in a vault that may have been provided when the mound was first erected. We are informed by Doctor F. H. Jennings, late of Muskingum county, that he had seen one or two mounds opened that distinctly showed the remains of vaults in them, in which bones and other relics were found.

Since we became interested in this mound question, Mr. Isaac Smucker placed in our hands "The Writings of Caleb Atwater, published by the author," in 1833, which treats extensively on these mysterious works of antiquity. This is a work which I never had read till now; and when I think of the extended investigations of Mr. Atwater, of his abilities as an

antiquarian, and of the renown of those learned men, whom he has called to his aid, it looks like presumption in me to attempt to present a single idea to the world, on a subject so intricate, that would in the least conflict with the apparently satisfactory conclusions of these learned writers. But, to my understanding, the military, the mortuary, and the sacrificial ideas seem to have prevailed in the minds of all these writers, in nearly or quite all of their investigations, to such an extent that we think that their prepossessions of thought have led them in some respects into erroneous conclusions. And, though I may subject myself to the derision of the learned, who may esteem themselves more wise on this subject, I will venture to cast my thoughts "upon the waters," and let them sink or swim, as they may favorably or unfavorably impress the minds of thinking men. I am satisfied that a great amount of error prevails in our country in regard to those antiquities, and if I shall but suggest a thought that will direct the wise into a channel of investigation that will develop light on the subject, I shall feel that I have rendered a service to my country.

We learn from the writings of Mr. Atwater that these works seem to have commenced about the head of our northern Lakes, thence down their southern border into western New York; from thence in a southwestern direction along the streams, through the Mississippi Valley, and up the Gulf to the City of Mexico. He also gives us diagrams of most of the principal works in Ohio, and some representations of curiosities and sacred images found elsewhere. In fact, Mr. Atwater, unlike the writers in Van'Tramp's work, manifests a stronger desire to arrive at the truth than to captivate by literary flourishes or by picturesque imagery. I have been both delighted and benefitted by the perusal of his writings. His great research into the ancient history of the old world, both sacred and profane; his careful and apt comparisons of the tumuli of the various ages and nations of the earth, their origin, nature, general character, location and use, from which to draw conclusions as to the origin and design of our own mysterious antiquities, is truly interesting, ingenious and instructive. But notwithstanding this evidence of great learning, skill and research, I still think that preconceived military and sacrificial ideas and mythological history has had too much to do in the conclusions that have been drawn from these premises. For I can see in the larger proportion of these works nothing in the nature of military defence, but little of the sacrificial, and the mortuary, merely incidental except where they are found in clusters on level plains. These works are found very numerous in the State of Wisconsin, extending up the west shore of Lake Michigan, from near Chicago, to Sheboygan, from Lake Winebago, down the Rock River valley to Fulton on the Mississippi, in the State of Illinois, and from Milwaukie across the State down the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi. And in vol. III, of the historical collections of Wisconsin, page 178, in a paper by "*Alfred Brunson, of Prairie Du Chien,*" we are informed that there are in Crawford County alone more than a thousand of these works. Who also says, "the fact that human bones have been found in some of them, is no evidence that they were erected as tombs for the honored dead, because the Aborigines found here by the whites, have long been in the habit of burying their dead in them, and as many of these tumuli have been opened without finding either bones or any thing else in them but soil, the presumption

is very strong that the bones sometimes found in them are from the Interments of the Indians, who more recently occupied the country." Mr. Brunson, presents various arguments to prove that they were not erected as tumuli for the dead. The mass of the works in Wisconsin, are said to be representations of animals; and Mr. William R. Smith "President of the State Historical Society, of Wisconsin," in the third volume of the History of Wisconsin, (page 263.) After coming to a conclusion directly the opposite of that of Mr. Brunson, and speaking of the total ignorance of the Indian Tribes as to their origin or design, uses the following language: "Why should not these animal-shaped mounds be considered as possessing a strictly heraldic character? There would be little difficulty in assigning to them such a symbolic meaning; if they could be considered as the final resting places of such Indians as bear the names of, Little Turtle, the Bear, the Buffalo, the Eagle, the Little Crow, the Watchful Fox, the Snake, the Deer, the Warrior, the Black Hawk, the Wolf, the Panther, and the Alligator; many of the mounds resemble figures to which such nomenclatures may be well applied. 'But these Earth-works belong to a period when a different race existed; and yet the names of individuals, and of Tribes or clans, may have been in like manner conferred and held, in ancient as in modern times.'" Here is a theory that I have seen advanced by no other writer, and although it may have some apparent plausibility when applied to the works of that particular locality, it could not have any general application to our American Antiquities. There are some twelve to fifteen authors represented, or quoted in these works of the Historical Society, of Wisconsin, still no two of them agree, except in the military theory. And this is taken for granted by nearly all, without attempting to present a single argument to sustain it. We are further informed by those Wisconsin writers, that these works are generally located on high elevations, that command an extensive view of the surrounding country, just as the circular or pyramidal mounds are found in this state. And I can see no more to justify the military theory in these animal shaped tumuli of the northwest, than I can in the round, and angular works in the more southern portions of the Mississippi valley; let any thinking person, for a moment reflect on the idea of a fort for military defence, or protection, one, or even two hundred feet in diameter, of easy approach at every point, or of a mound erected a quarter of a mile from dry land, in a lake of water, being erected for a place of retreat, and security from their enemies in time of war, when it would have required, as many men as could have stood upon the mound, two generations to have erected the work, to say nothing about the want of stores to stand a siege in such a place, while the enemy had control of the main land, such a theory is simply preposterous, yet such was the deliberate conclusion of a "party of Literary and Scientific Gentlemen from Natchez." I suspect however, that "Col. Coe, or Capt. Bourbon," had more to do in arriving at this conclusion, than either, Napoleon Scott, or Hardee.

I have sometimes thought that we free American Fathers were too apt, when we find that we have a boy, that is too lazy to make his living by farming, or any other industrial pursuit, to send him to college with the view of crowding him into some of the learned professions. But too often he enters college without any definite purpose, and leaves it, but a gradu-

ated fool. But feeling his importance with a Diploma in his pocket, he drives off, after the first shadow that flits before him, and brings up with results similar to the above, you will find a few of them in nearly all the Learned Professions, but our political ranks are over run with them, and in our military ranks, not a few, but this is not the question at issue. Nearly all the writers on our antiquities, concede to our mound-builders, a pretty high state of intellectual culture, and who have left us very few relics, or evidences of Paganism, yet all that touch upon that subject at all, speak of them as a worshiping people, and some think there is satisfactory evidence of their knowledge of the true God. But our author's ideas of their mode of worship are governed by their notions as to their origin. They usually ascribe to them, the mode of worship practiced by the people and country, from which they suppose them to have originated. They also concede the idea that there has been some cities, and possibly some large cities, and that some of the Tumuli, may have been used as Watch Towers, in time of war, or insurrection. But that such use was only incidental, or emergent. But what evidence they have that there ever was such a state of war, or insurrection as to make such use necessary, they fail to tell us, and we are left to infer that they admit the watch-tower theory, because the works so strongly indicate that character, that they cannot ignore it, yet they are so strongly wedded to the military, and the mortuary theories, that they cannot give them up. With due difference, to the great ability of many of these learned writers, we think that some of their conclusions are based upon observations too superficial to entitle them to much credit. To prove this we need but call your attention to some of the writings on this subject.

Mr. Atwater says that many of the writers on these antiquities, never saw the works themselves, or if they did, it was only from some public conveyance, in hasty flight through the country, and consequently they knew nothing about them, and their representations are not reliable. This no doubt, in some instances is true. But those newspaper correspondents, and other persons seeking literary renown, are not the only persons chargable with having arrived at conclusions, and published opinions, based upon observations quite too superficial. Mr. Atwater himself, with all his care, is not safe from this charge, for in his report at the antiquities of Licking County, though he made a personal survey of them, he seems to have but little knowledge of their extent and diversity of character. He gives us very correct diagrams of a portion of the works on Cherry Valley, and speaks of one or two mounds, south of Newark, and some pits below Newark, and south of Licking River. These he calls the works in Licking County, while they constitute but a very small proportion of those works. He also says, these works are situated on an elevated plain; forty or fifty feet above the alluvium, or creek bottoms and generally forty feet above the country around it, while in fact they are situated on a low plain, not more than forty or fifty feet above the present worn channels, of the stream and nearly surrounded by high hills, and on which are but little, if any less than one hundred mounds that look down upon that valley, or plain and its works, none of which does it appear that Mr. Atwater had any knowledge of; besides this, these works extend nearly or quite all over the country, and east into Muskingum, and Coshocton Counties, and south into Perry and Fairfield Counties, and west into Franklin County. And

I doubt not if carefully examined, would be found in a continuous line to the Mississippi; and if their builders did not constitute one great Nation, or King dom, they consecrated several large cities, with extensive country surroundings, and enjoyed such fraternal relations with each other, as to leave us no trace of the lines of division or any marks of discord, or of bloody wars. But on the contrary, they have left us an abundance of monumental testimony, that there has been a well arranged, and thoroughly organized civil government, for we do not hesitate to express the opinion that the great mass of those antiquities are the monuments of peace, and not of war, as is generally supposed, my reasons for this opinion is their want of adaptation to military purposes.

Nearly all of the circumvallations, or forts, so called, are constructed with the moat, or ditch inside of the wall, and many of them are very small, ranging from one to two hundred feet in diameter, and of easy approach at any, and all points on the outside. Now to call such works military fortifications, is not only absurd, but supremely ridiculous. I care not what principle of warfare, you may assign to these mound builders; or what weapons they may have used; whether the primitive Sling, the Bow and Arrow, the Javelin, the Dart, the Sword, or Cutlass, or any kind of explosive weapons. For any, and all of those, they were useless, as places of security, or for defence. Just so, in regard to many of the mounds. Many writers from whom we might expect rational conclusions, when they could find nothing to justify calling them monuments for the dead, they would adopt, and publish the much more absurd theory, that they were erected, for places of retreat, and security in time of war, and for batteries of defence, while none of them gives us the slightest intimation as to what kind of batteries could have been used by these ancient people, that could have been adapted to such works, still this was the deliberate conclusion of the "party of Literary and Scientific Gentlemen from Natchez." But these men are not alone in adopting that theory. It is quite common all over the country, but the fact that the uneducated masses have adopted an absurd theory, is not a sufficient reason that learned men should do the same thing, and confirm the unwise in their error, simply because they, the learned, cannot find rational use for these works. Let them rather acknowledge that they know nothing about it. That would set the mass to thinking, and investigating with more care. I am informed by William Lockard, Esq., of Clark County, Ills., but formerly a citizen of Ross County, in this State, that the largest and most noted Tumulus, in that part of the country, is a triangular mound, on the point of land between, and at the confluence of the point, and Sciota Rivers. That it is located on the alluvium, and at the rivers sometimes overflows the plain for a considerable distance above and around this singular tumulus. That it contains an area of about ten acres of land, and is some twenty-five to thirty feet high, and level on the top, and was covered with hickory and other timber, as was the river bottom, on which it was located. And while he resided there a man erected a house on the top of it, and sunk a well to a level of the surrounding plain, and that broken Pottery and other evidences of its artificial construction was found all through it. And further, that the ascent was very steep all round it, except at the upper, and most acute angle; neither this singular tumulus, nor a large fort a mile east of it across

the Scioto, are noticed in Mr. Atwater's work, or any other that I have seen. I have introduced the account of this mound here because of its singular character, and to say that this too, is called a military work. But can any person conceive of any instrument of war, previous to the discovery of Gun Powder, that would have been adapted to the defence of an extensive plain from such a point! If not, why should we violate the human understanding by assigning them a use for which they are in no way adapted, and that too where none of the surroundings will justify the theory, while we may assign them a civil use in complete harmony with their nature and the usages of the age to which they belong. The form of this mound would indicate that it was sacred ground, or an emblem of duty, and may have been the foundation of a great temple. It was a common custom, among the ancient nations of the earth, to carefully guard the lives and dignity of their rulers, by prohibiting the promiscuous approach of their subjects. This is still the case with some nations; it is done in various ways; the most common, is by military guards, who were chosen with reference to their good will, and attachment to the person or thing to be guarded. But in the great city of the Assyrian Empire, (Babylon,) the Palace of the ruling Prince, though protected from the approach of enemies by the great wall of the city, was also protected from the near approach of his own people, by three additional strong walls, surrounding the Palace within the city. It was much the same with the Jews; although they were the chosen people of God, and reputed to be the Righteous Nation of the Earth, and were entrusted with the secrets of Jehovah, which when unfolded by the fullness of time, were to become a blessing to the world, still they could not be trusted to govern themselves by their moral sensibilities, but were limited in their approaches to their own sacred Tabernacle and their Great Temple, by the outer courts that surrounded them. But we need not name isolated cases, for the principle has been common to all ages. If any of us to-day were to attempt to visit St. Peter's at Rome, the Mosque of Omar, at Jerusalem, the Palace of Napoleon, in France, or of Victoria in England, we should find them all strictly guarded. Just so with the ancient people that erected those American Antiquities, they understood human nature well enough, to know that it was better to spend money, and labor to maintain the peace and dignity of their government, by guarding against trouble, than to spend it to quell insurrection. Hence these numerous monuments of their wisdom and greatness spread all over our lands. And it is left for us, without the aid of letters, to study the theory of their government from these mute relics of a pre-historic age. Though we should fail a thousand times, in our efforts to fully comprehend their nature and utility, let us not give up the research, but diligently pursue the inquiry, and encourage the people living among these works, to carefully observe, and preserve every thing that may tend to throw light upon the subject, and in due time report their discoveries to your Pioneer Associations, to be laid up in your Archives for scientific investigation, one object may throw light upon another, until light and truth may crown your efforts. My own theory in regard to these strange works has been shadowed forth in what I have already said, I have told you that I looked upon them as the monuments of peace and not of war. The circumvallations, or enclosures of what our firm are the outer-courts of Seats of Royalty, and of Temples of

Worship, and enclosures of Magazines or Public Stores, of Public Parks, or Pleasure Grounds, while others were for Athletic exercises and other public games. We find the works varied in their character, and well adapted to these several uses. Those whose nature indicate the location of seats of royalty, or of temples of worship, are so constructed that the outside multitude could easily approach to within a suitable distance to offer their adulation to the Princes, or their adoration to the Gods, and witness the sacrificial offerings of the Priests in the Temples, yet the deep moat inside of the wall, guarded those sacred precincts from the press of an enthusiastic, or a sacrilegious multitude. The same may be said, as to the adaptation of those whose nature and location indicate other uses, whether for pleasure, or for the protection of public stores. In some places these works are numerous and expensive and indicate a crowded state of Society, or rather a large city population. And the works gradually grow more sparse, as they recede from these apparently central points, but with occasional minor-clusters that indicate the location and protection of subordinate Rulers, the locations of Magazines, etc., yet we find no signs of discord or of separate independence. Such a great central City do we think once occupied the hills and valleys of Licking; and which centered on Cherry valley. To the greater part of the mounds we assign the character of Watch-Towers, and signal stations, from which the watchmen kept a constant look-out and by concerted signals, could report any incipient move towards Insurrection, or insubordination to the Laws, as well as to announce the signs of the times, or the approach of danger from the elements, or from any other source. The location of these mounds not only indicate such a use, but is such as to greatly facilitate such a mode of communication with rapidity and certainty. The idea of such an attachee to the Government as a watchman is not novel, for such an office was common among the primitive oriental governments; and judging from the writings of Isaiah and Ezekiel, they were found among the Jews at a later date than that of the erection of these American Antiquities. And in an age when letters were unknown, such watchmen, and such a system of signal communications, were of great importance in the government of a large tribe or nation. There are in some places, usually on level plains, many small mounds that were doubtless erected as tumuli for the distinguished dead, while there are others that seem to combine several uses. But the greater portion of the scattered mounds were, doubtless, for the use we have assigned them, and constituted a system of communication extending from the center to the circumference of the Kingdom, equalled only by the modern telegraph. These watchmen were doubtless among the learned men of the nation or tribe, and their position an honorable and an honored one in the Kingdom, for they must have constituted the principal medium of communication between the different and distant portions of the Kingdom. And having been educated for this special office, it was probably held for life, and I should not think it incredible to suppose that vaults may have been prepared in the base of their watch-towers to receive their mortal remains, after having been worn out in the service of their country, that they might, after death, continue to enjoy a relation to their honored position in life. This may account for the few human bones found in some of those scattered tumuli. The mathematical skill manifest in the construction of some of these

works, as well as the fine topographical engineering shown in the location of these signal mounds, indicate a pretty high degree of culture, for that age of the world, and I think conclusive evidence that they were not erected by the ancestors of our native Indians, as it is not probable that they ever advanced beyond the hunter-grade of civilization in which we found them, while our mound-builders must have been much in advance of this. These signal mounds are not always found on the highest hills, but where they will command the most complete view of the whole land, whether below or above their location, and where they can be seen by the greatest number of other mounds, by views through valleys, or between distant hill-tops. This feature is an important one and cannot be the result of accident. On the contrary, it shows a careful economy in locating them, so as to attain the object of their erection with the least amount of labor possible. This would have been needless had their design been other than that we have assigned them. They would, in many instances, have much better suited the theory of "worship in high places," or of "monuments for the dead," if they had been differently situated, from that in which we find them. We, in one instance, found a mound on an offset or table on the hill-side, where it commanded the view of an adjacent valley that could not have been seen from the top of the hill, while there was none on the hill-top, seventy-five feet above the plain or level table on which the mound was situated. And yet this mound was but little less conspicuously situated in its relation to other mounds than if it had been on the top of the hill. Again, the size of these "Tumuli" are to a considerable extent governed by the nature of the ground on which they are located. On high, narrow pointed, natural elevations, they are much less than when the hill-top presents a broad level surface; also, on gently undulating plains they are larger and taller than when situated on the hills or on smooth plains. Another feature that I have noticed is: that their number is governed by the character of the face of the country where they are situated. On rough, broken lands they are numerous, while on smooth plains they are but few. Still where they are found at all, they are found in sufficient numbers to overlook the whole surface of the land. In our Prairies of Eastern Illinois, there are but few, except along the banks of the Wabash, but the few found away from the larger streams are generally large and tall, and so situated as to overlook a large district of country. Now, we would ask, why all this kind of discrimination, if their primary object had been of a military character, or for altars for sacrificial, or as monuments for the distinguished dead.

In fact such a theory is irreconcilable with the human understanding of the nature and relation of things. The mind must be educated to such theories before it can see any thing in these works to justify them, that these ancient Americans, like the ancient Egyptians, Phonicians, Assyrians, Chinese and other original Tribes, or Nations, may have been superstitious in some things, and behind the present age in the arts, and sciences, may be quite true, but that is no reason why we should attribute to them, intellectual inconsistencies, that would sink them below the wild Tribes, that roved through our Forests when first found by the people of Europe. How many of us can give a rational account of the original design of the Pyramids of Egypt. We may think we know, but with an unbroken chain of History reaching nearly back to the probable period of their erection, we

still know but little about them, yet they are there, and were erected by the most learned nation of that age. No person pretends that they were military works though they are as well adapted to military purposes, as are our mounds. We have no fault to find with the representations given by Mr. Atwater and other distinguished men, of what they have seen and examined. But we do object to their conclusions, when based upon such limited observations as is manifest in regard to the antiquities of Licking County. There are at least eight forts or circumvallations in the county that I know of, that are not noticed by any of those writers, except three that is mentioned by Mr. Smucker, and there cannot be less than three hundred mounds that are not noticed at all; yet when they are viewed as a whole, they present a very different feature than when seen in isolated parts, though these parts may have been the most prominent portion of the works. They must be examined from the center to the circumference and the relations of the several parts to the whole as well as the scientific harmony of those relations, must be studied to fully comprehend their use. Let any person that is well acquainted with the face of the country inform himself as to the location of fifty or one hundred of these scattered mounds in Licking county, and then let him ascend a few of them, and imagine the timber all removed, and he will be astonished at the harmony of their relations. Nearly all will seem to be in plain view, from almost every point. And further that nearly all seem to have been built with reference to the works on Cherry Valley as a common center. Cherry Valley, is that part of the Licking Valley, west of the City of Newark, that lies between the Pataskala, and the Raccoon branches of Licking River, extending from their junction up the Pataskala to the mouth of Auter Creek, and up Raccoon Creek some three miles to the range of hills dividing the Raccoon and Auter Creek Valleys. It is a beautiful plain, the soil is gravelly, but very fertile. It embraces about three thousand acres of land, and lies nearly in the shape of an equilateral triangle. On this plain is situated several of the largest and most singular artificial works to be found in the country. The principle one of these (so called) fortifications, which contains about forty acres of land, is owned and occupied, by the "Licking County Agricultural Society," and the place where they hold their annual Fairs. This part of the valley seems to constitute a central point, in the extensive cluster of works, lying in this and the adjoining counties. And after becoming satisfied in my own mind, by observations from various elevated points, that the arrangement and location of the works of Licking, would justify the theory that Cherry Valley was the central point, whence radiated the power that controlled and gave vitality to this great city, whose inhabitants perhaps numbered but little less than the present population of the whole state. This beautiful valley and its works, began to assume an importance in this field of antiquities that I never had thought of before though familiar with its curious works all my life. Now every antique artificial feature about it became an object of importance, that might have wrapped up in it volumes of valuable history. Not having found anything in "Alligator Mound" that I thought would justify the idea of its being considered an object of Idolitrous worship, and having found the triangle in several of these artificial works, which is an ancient symbol of the True God. I concluded to again visit the great work owned by the agricultural society, and examine "Eagle Mound." I went there without any doubts about

finding the representation of an eagle spread out on the surface in the center of the area enclosed by these great walls. But when I came to examine its form and proportions, I could not see the "Eagle," nor any thing that would justify the idea that the mound was ever intended to represent any living thing. It could not have been intended to represent a bird because there is neither Head, Neck, or Tail, and the wings do not taper towards the points, but on the contrary are even larger towards the extreme ends. And the abdominal dimensions are much too large to be in proportion with the other parts. While the Alligator mound below Granville strikes conviction to the minds of all that see it, even at first sight, that it was intended to represent the great American Crocodile. It cannot but require a great stretch of the imagination, to find any animal characteristics whatever in this so called "Eagle Mound." At least, such were my impressions; my feelings would have harmonized much better with the idea of calling it a representation of a man, in the act of swimming without any legs, which it might be said to represent pretty fairly. But I do not think that it was intended to represent any thing of the kind. But on the contrary, that it is the ruins of a massive Temple, or Palace of a ruling Prince, that has been erected with perishable material, such as unburned brick. The main part of it appears to have been about fifty by one hundred and eighty feet, with vestibule and tower in front, and wings extending to the right and left some sixty feet in length from the main building. The wings fall back some twenty to twenty-five degrees from a right angle with the main building, and probably had Towers at the extreme ends. This is indicated by the larger pile of earth at the ends of the wings. My reasons for calling this the ruin of a large building is, First—Its form being that of a large building, with wings to the right and left and vestibule and tower in front. Second—Its situation, it being a little in the rear of the center from the great gate of the court that surrounds it, and fronting the entrance, or gate of the court. Just as I think a skillful draughts-man of any age would place such a building to be in harmony with its surroundings. In the third place, its materials. All the plain on which these works on Cherry Valley are situated, is full of gravel, or public stones, even to the surface; and the walls of the court that surrounds it are of the same character, while the mound or ruin, is composed of good brick-clay free from gravel, and foreign to any thing to be found in this vicinity. There is also another slight elevation of this same kind of clay outside of the court. It is situated to the right of the road, leading from the gate of the court towards the Pataskala, or South Fork of Licking River, and indicates the former existence as a Block of Buildings, or Guard Houses, that extended some three or four hundred feet from the walls of the court, to, and beyond the site, where the Trustees are preparing to erect a Hotel Building for the use of the Park. This bed of clay is from 12 to 16 inches deep, resting on gravel, while but a few feet from it, the gravel is found to come to the surface. This debris lying as it does, by the side of the pass-way to the only entrance to this Royal Court, and between the parallel walls, that it is generally believed were erected to protect the passway from this sacred precinct to the river, is strongly suggestive of the location of a series of Guard Houses, to prevent the promiscuous entrance of improper persons, to this well guarded seat of royalty. This theory is so adverse to anything heretofore presented, in regard to this great work, by any writer

that has treated upon these antiquities, so far as I have any knowledge of, and this particular work having always been looked upon by the mass of those that have seen it, or seen Mr. Atwater's Diagram of these works, with such fixed military prepossession, I shall not wonder if many and perhaps among them some learned men, should denounce it as fanciful. But when any of my readers feels tempted to pass such a judgment, let them first go to work and get up a theory more in harmony with the works, and their surroundings, and with unbiased convictions of the human mind, then will I concede their right to denounce my notions. But in the absence of any thing better, I honestly believe that any common-sense man, that will critically examine these works and their surroundings, divested of all prepossessions will find ten times as much to justify this as he will the military and "Spread Eagle" theory. We cannot review the fields of antiquities in the Eastern Hemisphere, nor in many parts of our own country, as others have done. But from what we have read, and what we have seen, we believe that the works of Licking county are a fair type of all the works on this continent, of a similar date. But the question will naturally arise in the mind of many:

Who were the people that erected these works? and what has become of them, or of their decendants? These questions are not necessarily connected with the primary object of our paper, and it would seem folly for me to advance any theory on that subject, when our most able Historians have presented to the world such diverse opinions. Some have attributed them to Northmen, who they think reached our north-eastern coast about the seventh or eighth century of the christian era, others equally disposed to catch at straws think that they have found some Irish relics, and some Celtic, or perhaps rather some Hiberno-Celtic Hieroglyphics engraven on the rocks on our coast. While others have discovered and translated some old scandinavian manuscript records, that points out this country as New Ireland, settled by the Irish, about the year 1000 to 1003. While Mr. Catlin ascribes them to the Welsh who migrated to this country, under "Madoe, Prince of Wales," in the fourteenth century, and who he traced by these monumental works, from the Gulf of Mexico, up the Mississippi, and Ohio Rivers, and a remnant of whose decendants he finds in the Mandan Indians. In fact they have been ascribed to almost every European, and Asiatic Nation on the Earth. While Mr. Bancroft nearly scouts the idea of their being artificial works at all; some of these notions are preposterous to the minds of persons that are at all familiar with those antiquities, for they do not at all harmonize with the age and character of the works. Mr. Atwater, Mr. Breckenridge, and many other Scientific Antiquarians, have made laudable efforts, to discover their design, their age, and their nationality, from the relics that are found in and about them. But these too are so diverse in character, as to their age and nationality, that it is difficult to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion from that source. To show the difficulty arising from this source, I will relate a fact given to me recently by Elder John Smock, of Bremen, in Perry county, but who was fifty one years a citizen of Muskingum county in Ohio. Elder Smock says, he is seventy-one years old, and when he was about twenty years old, while engaged in burning charcoal, on the Muskingum near Dresden, for the use of the Dresden Furnaces, he and seven others, prompted by curiosity opened a mound that was about eight feet high, situated in the Township

of Madison, about one mile north-east of Dresden. On doing so they found in the middle of the mound, and on a level with the surrounding plain, five human skeletons, lying in a radiating position, with the feet towards the center. That with the bones, they found a large number of flint arrow points, some of them seven or eight inches long, and that they appeared to have been contained in a wooden box, that had entirely decayed. Also, a stone hammer, in shape like a shoe-hammer, with a groove around the middle of it by which to bend it to the handle, instead of an eye through it. Then there was a blue marble pipe; this he represented as being a plate of blue marble, about eight inches long, one and a half inches wide and a half inch thick, with the bowl in the middle of it. That there was three orifices of small size, drilled through to the bowl from each end, that a person could, and that he often had smoked through each and all of the six orifices. He says the pipe was nicely executed, with some ornamental work on it. The pipe was claimed and held by Mr. Teeple Yaw, who was the oldest man of the party, who afterwards moved to Indiana. The fourth article discovered was a brass kettle, of about three gallons capacity; this was bruised, and flattened by the weight of the earth on it, but its material not greatly injured. Fifth, an ax, rather a long bit and narrow; it was what is usually called the old Virginia or English style of ax, and of about four pounds weight. It was pretty badly rusted, but not so but what in distinctly showed the iron and steel, when ground to a smooth surface. Here are several articles found lying in juxtaposition at the bottom of this ancient tumulus, that evidently belong to ages, not less than three thousand years apart, and with the mode of burial, representing several nations. From which it may be seen that it would require close discrimination to determine the matter from this source. But with all these difficulties, this is probably the best source from which any definite conclusions can be drawn. If we were fully assured that those curiosities said to have been taken from the large stone mound south of Newark, in 1861, by Mr. Wyrick, were really found as represented, we should not hesitate to express the opinion that they were placed there by some of the "House of Israel," after the giving of the "Law from Sinai," and the erection of the Tabernacle, and possibly after the building of Solomon's Temple. But we find that some of the best informed citizens of Licking county, do not think that the antiquity of these relics have been fully authenticated. But if these were fraudulent, there have been many relics found in and about these works that were not fraudulent, and Mr. Atwater, who has taken more pains to collect and compose the lessons taught by those relics, than any other writer, of whom I have any knowledge, thinks that the preponderance of testimony from that source is in favor of Asia, as several images representing their deities are decidedly oriental, principally from Hindoostan, and Southern Tartary. And further that the marks of civilization agrees with the civilization of this part of the world, at the probable period of the arrival of the mound-builders in this country. Also that their stature and physiology are clearly Asiatic, judging from their fossil remains, and he thinks clearly mark them as having sprung from the same division of the human race. Mr. Atwater also thinks, that they were an agricultural people. This he draws from the fact of their adherance to the rich alluvial districts of the country. I will not take it upon myself to criticise this theory, (and all that any person can give on this subject is but theory.) Still I am inclined to favor a dif-

ferent opinion. That is that they were a Nation of Shepherds; this I conclude from their uniform adherence to the water courses, secondly, though there is no evidence that they ever occupied what may reasonably be supposed to have been at that age of the world, comparatively sterile lands, they were not confined to the alluvial districts, but were spread out over a wide district of high rolling, and what we may suppose to have been good pastoral lands. Thirdly, they have left no remains of substantial dwellings, or of manufactories, such as belong to an agricultural nation, they were doubtless a migratory people. Though they may have continued in the same place for several generations, or even for centuries, still we think that like the descendants of the Ishmael, the mass of them always dwelt in tents. Hence we may be allowed to doubt their Chinese or Hindu origin. From Sears' History of China and India, we have reason to think that they of Asia were, like the Egyptians, an agricultural people from the start, and if our mound builders had emigrated from Eastern Asia after it had become so thickly populated, as to induce such migrations, we should probably have had some other evidences of such an origin. While the Pharaohs were building the Pyramids, the people of China were a refined, and highly cultivated nation of Silk Manufacturers, and we think that an emigration from such a society, like the Druids of England, would have left some more unmistakable evidence of it, than we find in our American Antiquities. We think that these ancient Americans, like many other primitive nations had their origin in the general dispersion from the Plains of Shinar, and that the state of civilization to which they attained, like that of other ancient nations, was the natural growth, or development of their own system of mental culture, and not borrowed from any other division of the Earth. And while the Egyptians, and people of Eastern Asia became Farmers and manufacturers, some, as the Phoenicians, became merchants, while the Americans, and some other divisions were devoted to a pastoral life.

And others, still less inclined to improvement remained in the wild hunter State of civilization, a sample of which is found in our native American Indians, and whose ancestors we think were not likely at any age to have been more civilized than they were when first found by Europeans. From which you may infer that I do not believe that these wild tribes of aborigines or their ancestors had any thing to do with the erection of these works. But what has become of them, or their descendants? This too is a question that we cannot give a definite answer. Whether they passed away by Pestilence, or Famine, or as did the inhabitants of the "Cities of the Plain," by the Fiat of Jehovah, in consequence of their sins, or from some other cause must be left to the developments of the future. But in this matter we are inclined to favor the theory of Mr. Atwater, and some others, who think their descendants are found in the Astecks who were found in Mexico when first invaded by the Spaniards, or in the native inhabitants of South America, and Peru, or in all of them. There seems to be almost as much uncertainty, as to the origin of these tribes, as there is in regard to the origin of our antiquities. While these people were found by the Europeans in a much higher state of civilization than our North American Indians, they were also found at the Southern terminus of this series of antiquities. The state of civilization in these tribes, as well as their size and physiology, are said to justify the opinion that they sprang from the same race that erected these works, and whose fossil remains are found in these tumuli.

But whether this theory is correct or not; this we do know, that at some pre-historic age of our continent, there has been a people here in vast numbers, much more cultivated and civilized than those we found here, who have left their marks in these durable monuments, from whose mute lessons alone we are left to gather the ancient history of our country, and its mutations for a period of several thousand years. And though we may never fully comprehend their teachings, let us continue to carefully study the book before us, for soon we shall cease to have them to study. They are rapidly passing away by the sacrilegious hands of civilization. This is all wrong. It is a species of vandalism that should not be allowed. They ought to be protected by state authority, as sacredly as the Pyramids of Egypt. But as this will not be done, let us as far as possible preserve them in written records, and faithfully transmit each successive ray of light that may break forth from them, to our successions, and not forgetting that in the language of Rev. R. Smith, of Wisconsin. "We are setting in the midst of monuments that are dumb, let us watch, they may hereafter speak."