

feet wide," but is to be noted that these burial pits are almost invariably found on the top of knolls and hills; generally the highest ground within easy reach of the town or village.\* Was this practice in any way connected with the mound-building predilections of other tribes? Did our northern Indians cease to throw up great earth heaps for such a purpose because they found so many of natural formation? Does the construction of mounds by people occupying more level areas in any way indicate the persistence of a habit formed by their ancestors in some hill country? Or are both practices but the survival of some ancient custom of religious or other significance derived from common predecessors?

During the time I spent the township of Nottawasaga, I endeavored to ascertain the position of every known locality associated with the Tionnontates, and succeeded in being able to mark upon the map ten village or town sites, twenty-one ossuaries, one fortified place, and three potteries. There are no doubt other places of which nothing could be learned, as the first settlers on many farms are now dead, and every surface trace has been removed in the course of cultivation. In almost every case I examined the places, and found in only two instances that spots which had for many years been popularly regarded as "bone holes," were but natural depressions, caused probably by the infiltration of water through the sandy subsoil which was little more than a foot below the surface.



\* I have met with only one instance of a grave on low land. This is situated in the township of Humberstone, within a short distance of Lake Erie. The flat, near the middle of which the grave has been made, is of several acres in extent, and almost surrounded by sandhills of considerable height, from forty to sixty feet. Although pipes and other relics of Indian production have been found in this ossuary, it is suspiciously connected with "white" origin, as some of the skulls taken from it, and now in our possession, appear to be those of Europeans.