

gating party. The cranium of the skull taken from the mounds in best condition measures six and seven-eighth inches longitudinally, and five and three-eighth inches in transverse diameter. It is, therefore, of the dolichocephalous or long type of cranium; that is to say, its transverse diameter being seventy-eight per cent. is less than eighty per cent. of the long diameter. But it will be noticed that the cranium in question, while undoubtedly of the long, narrow form, approaches closely to the brachycephalous or short, wide form of cranium; a fact which may perhaps serve to indicate that it is the cranium of an individual belonging to a race comparatively high in the scale of civilization. The skull referred to was found in an upright position, within five inches of the surface of the ground, and a distance of two or three feet from the nearest bones. The skulls and bones obtained at greater depths were extremely brittle, many of them crumbling to dust on the slightest pressure. They were certainly very much more fragile than skeletons taken during the past few years from Huron Indian ossuaries and known to have been buried before the year 1650. It has been stated above that each mound is gravelly towards its surface. This gravel is more or less mixed with the black loam which constitutes the great body of the mound beneath it. Yet, it forms a very distinct layer about fifteen inches in depth, and covers the whole land in proximity to the mounds as well. Nowhere is there to be seen any depression or excavation from which such enormous heaps of black earth could have been procured. The gravel is similar to

what occurs in the river bed close by; and the black earth is similar to what constitutes the soil of the prairie in general. Hence, one is led to conclude that the great bulk of the mound was, many ages ago, built of material scraped and gathered from the prairie soil; and that at a later period the whole series of mounds have, for a length of time, been underlain by water which carried thither great quantities of limestone gravel. Such a theory would necessitate the inference that the skull found so near the surface of one of the mounds was deposited there at the same time as the gravelly matters were laid down; or, that it was interred there at a still more recent date. Against the latter of these two inferences the total absence of the lower jaw and of all signs of burial would seem to militate.

Whether or not the human beings that reared and fashioned these mounds were of the same race as the mound-builders of the Scioto Valley, evidences of whose skill and knowledge are seen in the wonderful Ojibwa pipes, toucan pipes and other pieces of sculpture, I cannot tell. That they were not of the race that constructed the mounds or earthworks of Wisconsin may be thought from the fact that they have been found to contain relics, whereas the Wisconsin mounds are said to be singularly devoid of relics of any kind. It is, at all events, certain that their mode of interment of the dead was totally different from that of the Hurons, who formerly occupied the Province of Ontario, and the situation of whose ossuaries has been indicated by great circular pits or depressions in the earth, and not by cone-like elevations above the ground.