

River " carts, as usual, possessed no iron or other metal about them, being made wholly of wood and untanned buffalo hide. When in motion the creaking, strident sound of a train of such carts may be heard a mile off, and is described as anything but musical.

Before taking leave of the land of grain elevators, of smooth roads, of health-giving atmosphere and of "magnificent distances," it may be of interest to refer briefly to some curious mounds visited by us on the 10th of July, in the vicinity of the Upper Forest River. Shortly after the arrival of our party at the largest mound a procession, single file, was perceived hastily approaching us from the direction of the deep ravine on the sides of the river. This procession soon reached us, when it was found to consist of a Bohemian and his wife and children. The male head of the family ascended to the summit of the mound, and, without delay, delivered an address in which the words "no, no," "Indian come up," "make drubble," "burn," "Indiana Territory" and "Texas" frequently occurred, all the while his worthy spouse pouring forth a torrent of words in the Bohemian dialect. The orator of the occasion proved to be the proprietor of the land on which the mounds are situated, and the burden of his discourse appeared to be that the mounds must not be opened lest the Indians, enraged at the disturbance of the remains of their supposed relatives, should come up and give trouble by scalping the white settlers and burning their dwellings. On being informed that the expedition was undertaken in the interests of the territory, not only were we permitted to prosecute our work of exploration, but we also received valuable assistance in that work from the honest, good-natured owner of the grounds.

The mounds occupy a high ridge of land north of the river, commanding a fine view of a wide tract of rolling and prairie country. There are thirteen of them in that spot, and others a few miles distant. They are of two principal kinds — the *round* or *conical*, and the *long* mound. The latter assumes the form of a low ridge or breastwork, of which there are three. Two of these are about one hundred feet apart, and run nearly parallel for a distance of about eighty perches. The remaining ten mounds are high and conical. Generally speaking each is a great heap of black soil, circular, or nearly circular, at its base, somewhat cone-shaped, raised to the height of many feet above the surrounding land, gravelly at its surface, clothed with grass and pig-weed, and containing human and buffalo skeletons and various relics. Two of these mounds were opened by us; one of them measured ninety feet in diameter, and about fifteen feet in height; the other is seventy-five feet in length, top measurement, sixty feet in width, and about nine feet high. Since the time of their formation assuredly all the mounds of both classes must have been greatly reduced in height by rain, frost, snow, and other natural agencies. In the two conical mounds, whose dimensions are given above, we found several human skulls and many other human bones, with skulls of the buffalo. Although some of the bones were in an advanced stage of decomposition, and consequently too brittle to allow of removal, yet one adult human skull, in a good state of preservation, and numerous human vertebræ, clavicles, leg, foot and arm bones were taken out and found worthy of conservation in a museum. Two stone shovels or scrapers, with pieces of charcoal and of elm and willow wood and bark were also removed and taken care of by Mr. Twamley, of Grand Forks, a member of the investi-