

the soft earth must have been washed off by rains, etc., before grass covered the mound.

Of course nothing very definite can be stated of the builders of these mounds, as to when they flourished, whence they came, or how they became extinct. The contents and surroundings of the mounds form, however, two great sources of evidence concerning them. Many specimens of handiwork have been found. Prof. Montgomery has taken from mounds in Dakota wonderfully fine work in bone, shell, stone, copper and clay.

The evidence of the surroundings is perhaps equally valuable and more definite than that of the contents. Mounds, doubtless once high, have disappeared from view, and many even of their least perishable contents have crumbled away. Two or three times mounds have been found with large trees upon them. On one an oak was found whose trunk when sawed across showed nearly six hundred rings of growth. This tree grew in the north-western part of the United States, where, on account of the climate, there must have been a cessation of growth for three or four months in the year, and each ring must represent about one year's growth. This proves that the mound must have existed about six hundred years; but the tree had been dead some time when discovered, and who can say how long the mound existed before the tree came into life, or even that other trees had not lived and died on the same mound before that time?

Prof. Montgomery considers these mounds the work of a race wholly extinct and in many respects quite different from the Indians of the present time. This is evident from a study of their skulls and also the samples of handiwork found in the mounds. It is his opinion that they belong to a Mongolian race, not such

as the Chinamen we see in America, but a larger sized people. Some of the skeletons taken from Dakota mounds were more than six feet in length.

Among the mounds which Prof. Montgomery has worked in Dakota may be mentioned thirteen which he opened near the head of Forest River in 1883 and 1885, twenty-one near Devils Lake during the summer of 1887, and also the one recently opened in the city of Grand Forks, between Reeves avenue and the Fargo road, just south-east of the Belmont school house. These mounds averaged 50 feet in diameter, with a range of 35 to 90 feet, and over 5 feet in height. The largest was at Forest River, and had a diameter of 90 feet, height 10 feet. From these mounds Prof. Montgomery has removed over eighty human skeletons, twelve having been removed from the mound in Grand Forks.

Near both Devils Lake and Forest River he found what geologists have agreed to call sacrificial mounds. These latter are objects of great interest, and, of course, some doubt exists respecting their original use. In them were found skeletons of bears and other animals, and, as altars of clay were also found, it is believed that these animals were offered as a sacrifice.

Near Devils Lake was found one mound of observation which had been used as a beacon mound. As a proof that the fires on it had been long continued and hot, there was found on digging from the top red clay burned into red brick to the thickness of two feet.

While talking of his investigations in various parts of the country Prof. Montgomery tells some amusing stories. On one occasion, being for several days occupied in excavating a mound, he was making use of a hot water solution of glue for the better