

of pestilence, such as in the seventeenth century, swept away the Messaicheuseuks and Narragansetts of New England—appears to have abruptly arrested their labours, and to have restored the scenes of their industrious progression to the silence amid which the later forest-wilderness aroso. It is not necessary to assume a very great antiquity for the era of this abortive American civilization. It has been a favourite theory with some, to trace analogies between the arts of Central America and those of Egypt's primitive civilization. But those who do so, forget that the era of Montezuma is known, and that to a past so recent as that we can assign so much of Aztec and Toltec art, that a very few more centuries, at most, may suffice to embrace the utmost that we know of. Assuredly nothing has been observed, as yet, pertaining either to the ethnology or the archaeology of the new world, which may not be compatible with its first occupation by a human population subsequent to the Christian era. Much, however, may yet be brought to light, in reference to America's prehistoric centuries; and meanwhile it seems premature to affirm as Dr. Schoolcraft does of the Lake Superior basin: "There are no artificial mounds, embankments, or barrows in this basin, to denote that the country had been anciently inhabited; and when the inquiry is directed to that part of the continent which extends northward from its northern shores, this primitive character of the face of the country becomes still more striking. It is something to affirm that the mound-builders, whose works have filled the West with wonder,—quite unnecessary wonder,—had never extended their sway here. The country appears never to have been fought for, in ancient times, by a semi-civilized or even pseudo-barbaric race. There are but few darts or spear-heads. I have not traced remains of the incipient art of pottery, known to the Algonquin and other American stocks, beyond the Straits of St. Mary, which connects Lakes Huron and Superior; and am inclined to believe that they do not extend in that longitude beyond the latitude of  $36^{\circ} 30'$ . There is a fresh magnificence in the ample area of Lake Superior, which appears to gainsay the former existence and exercise by man, of any laws of mechanical or industrial power, beyond the canoe-frame and the war-club. And its storm-beaten and castellated rocks however imposing, give no proofs that the dust of human antiquity, in its artificial phases, has ever rested on them."

Observation has already disclosed in these northern regions the trenches of the ancient miners, who supplied to the mound-builders of the south the copper which they are proved to have so abundantly used; and the country has not yet been so thoroughly explored