

writers, as found at intervals from the Alleghany to the Rocky Mountains, or even to the Pacific coast,* alike intermingling with the huge structures of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys, and the more humble works of the Atlantic States, may perhaps give them a degree of interest beyond their immediate locality.

Commencing at Rednerville, in the Township of Ameliasburg, they may be traced along the Bay shore to the Plains of Massassaga Point, a distance of about eight miles. In this space, including the islands of the so-called "Big Bay," upon which they also occur, perhaps one hundred distinct mounds can be counted; they are not, however, confined to these limits, for, from enquiries made with a view to ascertain their extent, it is probable they will be found at intervals following the shores, from the eastern to the western extremity of the Bay; they are likewise said to occur at a place called "Percy Boom," upon the River Trent, and perhaps by ascending to the head waters of that river they may be traced to the shores of the Upper Lakes, and thence to the most remote parts of the continent.

As far as has yet been ascertained, there is but one class or form of mounds in this part of the country, and the truncated cone is the shape they assume. In size they vary from a diameter at the base of thirty to fifty feet, to a diameter at the apex of twelve feet. Each mound has a shallow basin or circular depression upon its summit, which, whatever be the size of the work, has a diameter of eight feet; and no mound under my observation possessed an altitude of more than five feet. It is a remarkable peculiarity of these works, that in almost every instance they occur in groups of two, and at irregular distances the one group from the other. Irregularity is likewise observable between any one mound and its fellow, these being sometimes found in juxta-position, and again from fifty to one hundred feet asunder.

The two of the same group are always of one size. With respect to the surrounding country they are situate apparently without design, now at the foot of a commanding hill, then half way down the side of a bank, and again so near the shore that in several instances they have been destroyed by the action of the water. Twice they have been found in very low or swampy ground, and in those cases they occur singly.

In the month of August, 1859, I caused five of the mounds upon Massassaga Point to be opened as follows:—Through the centre of

* Smithsonian Contributions, Vol. I, p. 2, and foot note.