

WILLIAMSBURGH.

Early in the season, I received from the Minister of Education, a letter addressed to him by Mr. Arthur Brown, Public School Inspector of Dundas county, pointing out that in the township of Williamsburgh, a few miles from Morrisburg, there was still to be seen a portion of what had once been very extensive earthworks. Mr. Brown expressed the opinion that the place should be examined in the interests of archæology, and we have to acknowledge our indebtedness to him for calling attention to what is (or was), according to our present state of knowledge, the most easterly circular embankment in Ontario. On reaching Morrisburg, Mr. Brown kindly accompanied me to the place, and put me in communication with Mr. J. J. Merkely, one of the oldest residents in that part of the country. Mr. Merkely remembered seeing the embankment first in 1816. It was then about three feet above the surrounding level, and enclosed an area of about five acres. His father Mr. Jacob Merkely, and his uncle Henry had both told him that within the enclosure there were five "pottery ovens," but this statement my informant regarded as having reference rather to quantities of pottery fragments found in certain places, than to anything in the form of structures that could properly be called "ovens." Many stone and bone implements had been collected from the place, but nothing indicative of European influence—no iron, sheet-copper, or glass.

Remains of human bodies had been exhumed, but these invariably belonged either to isolated graves containing only one body, or to single graves arranged in rows—no ossuaries or communal graves are known to have been found in the neighbourhood.

All that remains of this ancient earthwork is a few feet of the bank lying partly outside and partly inside of the fence, on the west side of the road that runs in a northerly direction from Morrisburg through the township of Williamsburgh, and which at this point separates lots 30 and 31 on the fifth concession. So inconspicuous is the remaining portion of this once extensive embankment, that none but persons who know of its former connection would regard it as other than a hummock or "cradle-knoll."

Having cut a section through it, however, the evidence was conclusive that the earth had been thrown up artificially, besides which, we found fragments of pottery at various depths as low as three feet.

HERSCHELL.

Almost midway in a line extending south-west from the Ottawa river to lake Simcoe, is situated the township of Herschell. It is one of the most northerly in Hastings county and has within its limits a lake known as Baptiste, about eight miles in length. This lake has continuous river communication, through the York and Madawaska rivers, with the Ottawa, and by means of portages between the innumerable lakes and many streams to the west and south, it would not be difficult to maintain canoe intercourse with the Georgian Bay, Lake Simcoe, Chemung Lake, Rice Lake and Lake Ontario. At all events, it is evident that it has once been a fairly populous centre, and that too, until within a comparatively recent period. Several village sites and camping grounds have been observed at various places on the shores of Baptiste Lake, and last summer there was discovered a burial ground of considerable extent. I am sorry that before I succeeded in reaching it