

in receipt of the information required, and I trust I shall then be able to command sufficient time after I receive it, to send you my Letter for your December Number.

Believe me to be,
Yours Respectfully,
II. PARSONS.

Guelph, 30 October, 1851.

N.B.—There are other subjects of general interest in your last two or three numbers that I hope to say a word upon, so soon as I can command a few hours leisure.

II. P.

ANCIENT CLOTH TAKEN FROM THE MOUNDS OF OHIO.

In 1838, Mr. Foster, U. S. Geologist, procured from a resident of Charleston, Jackson county, Ohio, several fragments of cloth taken from a mound in that vicinity. They were found near the bottom, enveloping several copper rings, and were greatly decayed; though some were sufficiently preserved to evidence their having been woven. Fearing deception or error, Mr. Foster refrained from making public, at that time, a fact so novel in itself, and so repugnant to prevailing ideas as to the degree of civilization possessed by the mound-builders; but having lately received from Mr. John Woods, of Ohio, a gentleman high in office, and of unquestionable veracity, additional samples, accompanied by a descriptive letter, all doubt as to the propriety of publishing the discovery is removed. In his letter, Mr. Woods states that the fragments of charred cloth, together with an arrow, and a considerable quantity of charcoal and bones, were taken from a mound on the western bank of the Great Miami River, two miles north of Middleton, Butler county, Ohio, during some excavations rendered necessary in constructing the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad. The mound was originally twenty feet high, and, fifty years ago, was covered with large forest trees. About ten feet from its surface there was a compact layer of fine, red, and apparently burned clay, about an inch thick; underneath which, near the middle of the mound, was another layer of fine, cream-coloured clay, differing from any in the neighbourhood. Under this latter, the charcoal, cloth and bones were found. The bones were few and small. Little earth was mixed with the coal and cloth, which evidently remained as they had been placed when burned and covered up. The charcoal appeared to be on the outside of the cloth, which was frequently in folds of half a dozen thicknesses. The layers of burned and cream-coloured clay did not occupy but about five or six square feet of the mound. As to the period when the charcoal and cloth were deposited in the mound, the only question occurring to Mr. Woods was, whether the mound erected by a former race may not have been made a burial place by the Indians living here when America was discovered. Thinking of this question while at the mound, he was careful to examine the condition of the earth around and above the relics, and came to the conclusion that it could not have been disturbed after it was placed in the mound. On this question Mr. Foster further remarks, that there is no evidence that the North American Indians possessed the art of spinning and weaving when first known to the whites; consequently, they never possessed it; for an art so useful, when once acquired, would not be lost. That the cloth was obtained from Europeans by the Indians and then placed in the mound, at a comparatively recent period, is improba-

ble for the following reasons: The layers of earth surrounding it were undisturbed;—its material, being less adapted for clothing and more costly than wool, is not such as a civilized race would manufacture for a barbarous one; and, moreover, the texture of some of the samples could not have been formed in an ordinary loom, but, was undoubtedly woven by hand. From these facts, Mr. Foster infers that the mound-builders who have left memorials of their existence from the shores of Lake Superior to those of the Mexican Gulf, were a laborious, intelligent people, far more civilized and advanced in the arts than the present race of Indians, with whom they appear to have no connection. The fabric in these samples of cloth, seem to be of some material allied to hemp; and the separation of the fibre from the wood is as complete as if done by the modern processes of rotting and heckling. The thread, though coarse, is regularly spun. The texture of the samples from Jackson county, is formed by the alternate intersection of the warp and woof; but in others from Butler county, the weft is wound once round the warp—a process only to be accomplished by hand. There is no reason to doubt that these woven fabrics are the work of the mound-builders. The art of spinning and weaving was practiced by the ancient Peruvians. At Pachacamac, thirty or forty miles from Lima, where stands the temple of the sun, there are numerous remains of walls built by sun-dried bricks indicating the site of a once large and compact town. In the burial-place here, are found numerous mummies in a sitting posture, wrapped in many folds of a woven cloth, with an exterior covering of coarse matting. The fabric consists of the wool of lama or alpaca, and a cotton, which here grows spontaneously.

Kossuth's Personal Appearance.

He stands about 5 feet 8 inches in height, has a slight and apparently not strongly knit frame, and is a little round shouldered. His face is rather oval; a pair of gray eyes, which somewhat reminded me of O'Connell's in expression, well set beneath a full and arched brow, give an animated and intelligent look to his countenance. His forehead, high and broad, is deeply wrinkled, and time has just begun to grizzle a head of straight dark hair, and to leave a bald spot behind. He has got the true Hungarian nose, but it is a fair, well formed feature,—such as a French passport would describe as *moyen*; a thick moustache nearly covers his mouth, except when he speaks or smiles, and unites with beard and whisker in a full flock of dark hair, falling down from the chin. The portraits are singularly unlike him in either person or expression. Whether from his recent captivity or constitutional causes, there is somehow an air of lassitude in his look, to which the fatigues of his voyage not improbably contributed. Altogether he gives one the idea of a man of thought rather than a man of action; there is a speculative air in his face, mingled with melancholy, which would mark him for a visionary or theoretical enthusiast rather than a great leader or a soldier. He was very plainly attired in a dark green frock-coat, with a little silk braid at the back and edges, and wore a common low-crowned square felt hat. Madame Kossuth, who seems in delicate health, stood beside her children, Francis and Louis, boys, and Wilhelmine, a girl, the eldest about 11, the youngest 7, and was dressed as simply as her husband. Some fine looking fellows, bearded like the pard, in braided military frocks lounged about the decks, a few of whom as indeed possibly their leader might have done, had suffered, no doubt, a good deal from sea sickness.