

the Rappahannock, which appear to denote in each case a river or torrent of water. By removing this local termination, we have the word Alleghen as the proper cognomen of the "Mound builders" of America. The huge footsteps which have been discovered in various places in Kentucky and Tennessee are evidently the work of this people; although some antiquaries are foolish enough to suppose that they are the prints of mortal feet on the rocks. It is my opinion that among a people so far advanced in the arts, sculpture was known, and that these impressions were cut by the mystic nations; for their size declares that they must have belonged to giants, and we have no account of these tribes being of more than ordinary size. Dr. Bird says, that in a cave in Tennessee he saw the bodies of two men and a dog petrified, and that they had, from appearance, remained so for hundreds of years, and that they differed from the Indians in their features, but not in their size.

LEAVES

FROM THE NOTE BOOK OF AN IDLER.

No. II.

LEGENDS OF THE HIGH BRIDGE.

BY CLARENCE ORMOND.

THE Ansable river—which is situated in the northern part of New York, and falls into Lake Champlain, after having for many miles been the boundary line between the two counties of Clinton and Essex—presents a romantic and singular appearance near the village of Keeseville. At this place the course of the river, which is east for the distance of two miles, runs north, when again it turns to the east, and is soon emptied into the Lake. From Keeseville to Birmingham, the distance of two miles, just the length of the bend, the banks of the river rise in a perfectly perpendicular direction to the height of one hundred feet—in some places only fifty. The distance across the river at the top of the banks, is about fifty or one hundred feet. About thirty years since, when the country was very thinly settled, there was a bridge across, with which is connected the following incident:

Among the farmers in the vicinity, was one, who had a servant named Daly. Having on one occasion missed some money, this individual (whose name we will not give,) suspected Daly, and taking him one night to the bridge, the brutal master fastened a rope around one of Daly's legs, and forcibly thrust him over the side of the bridge. His situation was now one of the most horrible that can be imagined. Suspended one

hundred feet above a deep, rapid current, from which there is no escape, even for the best swimmers—by a frail cord which might break or slip from the hands of the brute who held it, the heart-rending appeals for mercy from the servant would have moved any one but the monster who now held him. The farmer now told the man that he should hold him in that position till he confessed his guilt, or if he did not, he should drop him in the river. The servant denied him knowledge of the robbery, and supplicated him in moving terms to release him, but it was not till Daly's shrieks and cries for mercy had changed into the incoherent ravings of madness, that he was drawn up. When he reached the bridge, his hair was gray! And the man forever afterwards was a maniac. The country being thinly inhabited, there were no means of obtaining justice, and the author of this outrage went unhindered. But the abhorrence with which he was everywhere met, forced him to leave the country, and whither he went, no one knew.

After this, for some reason, the bridge was suffered to go to decay, so that in five years' time, nothing remained but the string-pieces—large pieces of timber two or three feet square. A farmer, who for many years had resided on his farm without leaving it, was summoned to attend a county meeting on the opposite side of the river, about two miles distant from the place where the bridge had been. Although he had fifteen miles to go, the farmer did not set out till late in the afternoon, and made for the place where, on his former visit many years before, the bridge had stood. The night was dark, and on arriving at this place, the man was surprised to see his horse start back with strong demonstrations of terror, and judging that he was frightened by some beast, (for he knew that panthers abounded in this section of the country,) he spurred on and encouraged his horse, which at length proceeded onwards.

Arriving at the tavern, he was asked how he had crossed the river, and replied, "By High Bridge." His hearers were incredulous, and having laid many wagers, it was agreed that the company, who were to remain at the inn that night, should go in a body to the bridge to decide the question. The next morning they accordingly proceeded to the bridge, and the farmer could scarce believe his eyes when he saw nothing of the bridge; but the three string-pieces, and when on the middle of these pieces were discovered the marks of the horse's hoofs, the farmer fainted away; the sense of danger that he had incurred, proving too much for the equilibrium of his mind. The hesitation of the horse was now accounted for; and the only wonder was, how the sure-footed beast had carried him safe across.