



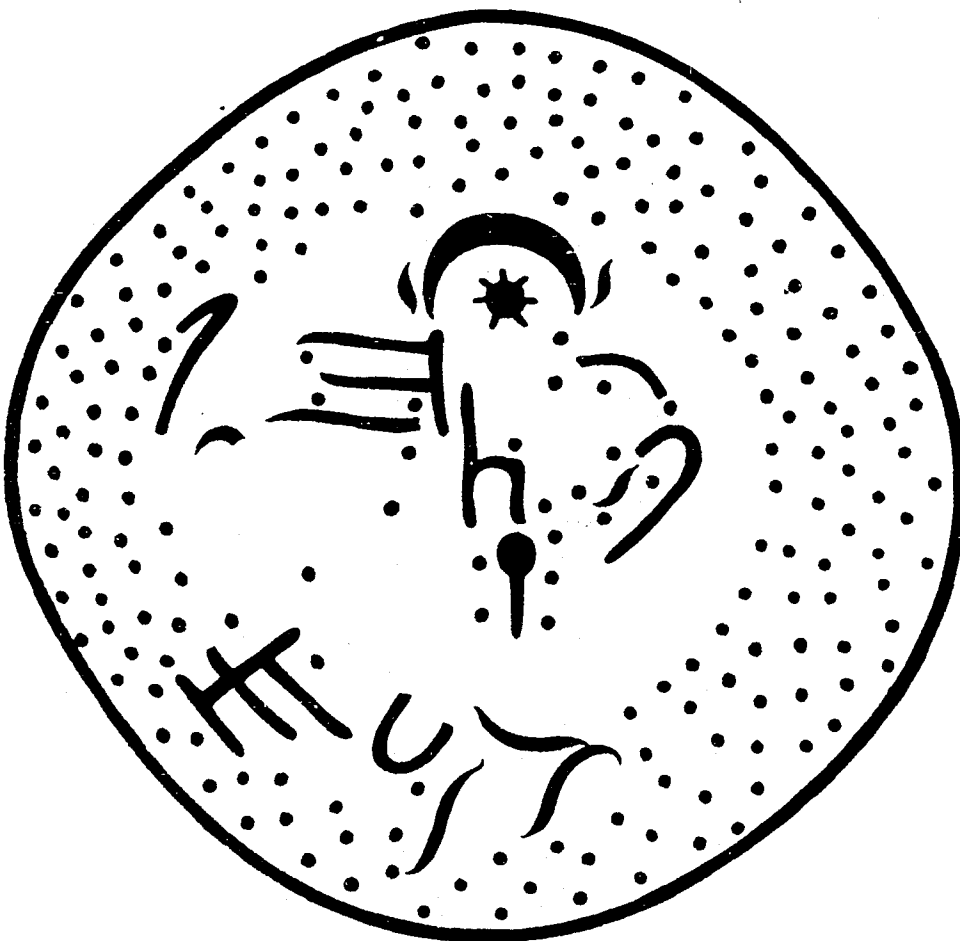
THE MOST REV. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL TAIT, D.D.,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND.

Nahua parentage inhabiting at the present day the southern part of the North-West Territory of the Dominion of Canada, has always pointed to a high hill, situated on the south side of Red deer river opposite to Hand hill, two miles east of the Broken-knife ridge, as the site of one of those ancient cities of the bygone days of the primitive race.

Elevated two hundred feet above the level of the surrounding plain, Kelkip-sesoators, the hill of the Blood Sacrifice stood like a huge pyramidal mound commanding an extensive view of both Reddeer and Bow river valleys. A natural platform of about one hundred feet, crowns its lofty conical summit. At the north end of this platform, resting upon the soil, is the Sesoators, a rough boulder of fine grained quartzose, hemispherical in form and hewn horizontally at the bottom, measuring fifteen inches high and about fourteen in circumference. Upon its surface is sculptured half an inch deep, the crescent figure of the moon, with a shining star over it. Two small concave basins about two inches in diameter are hollowed into the stone, one in the center of the star-like figure, the other about seven inches farther in a straight line with the star figure. Around them are traced strange hieroglyphic signs bearing some likeness to the hieroglyphs of the Davenport tablet and the Copan-altar. Interwoven all over are numerous small circlelets, which remind one of the sacrificial stone of Mexico.

At times of great private or public necessities when extraordinary blessings are much sought after, such as the successful return of a long-absent war expedition, the cure of inveterate disease, or the absence of game in the hunting grounds of the tribe the altar of the Temple of Nature is thronged by many devoted worshippers the deputies of the family, the clan, the tribe, and in certain emergencies of the whole nation.

The sun is disappearing behind the snowy top of the mountains in the west, the shadow of



ANCIENT RELIC OF MOUND BUILDERS,  
FOUND AT RED DEER RIVER, ALBERTA DISTRICT, N. W. TY., MAY THE 10TH, 1882,  
BY JEAN L'HEUREUX, M. A.,  
AND PRESENTED BY HIM, JULY THE 20TH, 1882, TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY THE MOST NOBLE LORD MARQUIS OF LORNE, AND  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS LOUISE.

night has already encompassed the Indian village in the eastern valley of the river. Behold! a voluntary victim bearing in his hands the instrument of his own sacrifice, clothed in festive attire, in religious silence is slowly ascending the well-smoothed path of the hill. Building the sacred fire on the top of the platform, the novel Isaac of his race, sits gazing wistfully in the far east, for the coming of the star-god of his ancestors. It is the vigil of the warrior hero. Lo! The first ray of the morning star lights the distant horizon and the faithful watcher has fallen prostrate on the ground doing homage to the war god of the nation. Laying a finger of his left hand on the top of the stone he cuts it off, leaving the blood to flow into the basin. Throwing the sacrificial knife on the ground he with his right hand seizes the severed finger and presents it still bleeding towards the morning star, crying "Hail! O Episora, Lord of the night, hail! Hear me, regard me from above. To Thee, I give of my blood, I give of my flesh. Glorious is thy coming, all-power, full in battle, son of the sun, I worship thee, hear my prayer. Grant me my petition. O Episora!" Putting the severed finger into the basin of the star-like figure the devoted visitor of the shrine of the Napa of old, retraces his stately steps towards the lake at the foot of the hill, where alone he stoically attends to the dressing of his self-inflicted wound. With the return of the sun in the east, the messenger to the god enters his own village, where triumphant honours and well-earned public ovation await him. Amongst the Blackfeet these wounds ranked equal to those received in the battlefield and were always mentioned first in the public recital of the warrior's great deeds in the national feast of Olan. It is the cross of the "legion d'honneur" of our red men.

Indian Reserve, Blackfoot Crossing.

July 25th, 1882.

J. L.