

point we began classification, using only the plants we had studied. Then began to clear up what before had seemed an interminable list of plants, and they were gratified to find that corn, wheat, oats, etc., are all grasses; that the potato, onion, and lily bulb are all branches instead of roots; that the strawberry is simply the calyx of the flower developed into fruit.

They learned to look about them and find objects on every hand incit-

ing them to study. And while eight weeks only were occupied in daily lessons which never exceeded forty-five minutes—more frequently only thirty—the discipline derived in training the brain to act, the eye to perceive, and the hand to perform, was most valuable, and the class looks forward to the time when it may resume its investigations. "Words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver."—*James R. Taggart, in School Education.*

REMAINS OF MOUND BUILDERS.

SINCE 1870 Prof. Montgomery (Vice-President of the University of North Dakota) has been much interested in investigating the works and remains of extinct races of this continent, and during the past five years has devoted considerable time to the exploration of artificial mounds in Dakota. The greater portion of this work done in Dakota has been in the neighbourhood of Devils Lake, Fort Totten, and Inkster.

The vast accumulation of facts to which eminent scientists are now adding so much, concerning the human beings who occupied this continent in pre-historic times can not but interest every one, and compel each to ask himself many questions as to who were these men and women, and what their origin and modes of life were.

Prof. Montgomery states, as his opinion, that the higher portions of North Dakota were very thickly populated with these people. From the location of the mounds it is known that in certain places there were vast cities occupied by an immense population. St. Louis is thought to have been the capital and largest city of the nation occupying the North American continent. In

that city and vicinity were many mounds, among them the largest found in America. This is situated near East St. Louis, and measured 90 feet in height, 700 in length and 500 in width. As in the case of St. Louis, so in many other cities, the white man has merely followed his forefamer in the choice of position. In a conversation on this subject Professor Montgomery said: "I delight to look at and to think of the pretty scenes around Fort Totten, and would give a great deal to know the name of the great city which flourished in that vicinity many centuries ago. I wonder what were the names of its principal streets, and how long this city had an existence! What beautiful bathing beaches, walks, groves, and views its citizens must have had."

These mounds are found widely distributed over North America, following the course of rivers—chiefly the Mississippi and its tributaries—and always on high ground. Many of the mounds have disappeared; some, probably, the number is very great—are no longer visible above ground. All are certainly much lower than when built, for, aside from what long ages have accomplished, much or