

of ground well cleaned. Only one or two on a side play at this ancient game. They have a stone about two fingers broad at the edge, and two spans round; each party has a pole about eight feet long, smooth and tapering at each end, the points flat." Adair then gives the method of playing, substantially as above, and adds: "In this manner the players will keep running most part of the day at half speed, under the violent heat of the sun staking their silver ornaments, nose, finger and ear rings, their breast, arm and wrist plates, and their wearing apparel." All the American Indians, says Adair, are much addicted to this game, which to us appears to be a task of stupid drudgery; it seems, however, to be of early origin when their forefathers used diversions as simple as their manners. The hurling stones they use at present were from time immemorial, rubbed smooth on the rocks and with prodigious labor; they are kept with the strictest religious care from one generation to another, and are exempted from being buried with the dead. They belong to the town where they are used and are carefully preserved."

If public property they would rarely be buried with the dead. They are however sometimes found in mounds, and Mr. C. C. Jones, in his excellent books on the Antiquities of Georgia, relates the finding of a fine one in a mound at a depth of thirty feet.

There are in Arkansas and perhaps in other States along the Mississippi river prepared grounds, sometimes with sun-baked brick. These places are called by those living in the vicinity threshing-floors. Is it not probable that they were chungke yards?

The aborigines had little grain to thresh,

all our ordinary grains being of European origin.

The game seems to have been of general and great interest, where says Captain Romans, "They bet high." Here you may see a savage come and bring all his skins stake them and lose them, next his pipe, his beads, trinkets and ornaments; at last his blanket and other garments, and even all their arms and after a l it is not uncommon for them to go home, borrow a gun, and shoot themselves.

Catlin says that the Mandans used sometimes to stake their liberty upon the issue of this game.

Adair says the Cherokees had a piece of ground carefully prepared and kept for this game near their council house, or as he calls it "State House."

Mr. Jones says the traces left in Georgia of such grounds show a careful preparation and are parallelograms in shape slightly elevated from sixty to ninety feet in length and about half as wide.

Captain Romans describes the ground as being an alley about two hundred feet in length where a smooth clay ground "is laid which when dry is very hard."

May not some of the mysterious and carefully prepared grounds of the mound builders within the State of Ohio, have been public yards for the playing of this game.

It is curious that the Mandans whom Catlin found west of the Missouri River and whose traditions pointed to the Ohio River had the same name for this game, as had the Creeks.

Col. Du Pre also presented to the society several photographs, two of a skull taken from one of the mounds, the others representing various objects of curious interest.