

miners of Lake Superior, with the modern tribes who have found there their hunting grounds.

There was a period in the long-past epochs of America's unrecorded history, when the valleys of the Mississippi and the Ohio were occupied by a numerous and settled population, known to the modern Archæologist as the Race of the Mound-builders. Alike in physical conformation and in arts they approximated to the races of Central America, and differed from the Red Indians alone known to Europeans as the occupants, and by them familiarly styled the aborigines, of the whole northern regions of the American Continent south of the Arctic Circle. The Mound-builders were not, to all appearance, far advanced in civilization. Compared with the tribes of Central America, first visited by the Spaniards, their arts and social state were in an extremely rudimentary state. The contrast, however, is no less striking between the evidences of their settled condition, with the proofs of extensive co-operation which their numerous earth-works supply, and all that pertains to the nomade tribes which have been alone known to occupy the American forests during post-Columbian centuries.

The Mounds of the Mississippi Valley abound in copper ornaments and implements, proving the familiarity of their builders with the mineral wealth of the Lake regions; and to just such a race, with their imperfect mechanical skill, their partially developed arts, and their aptitude for continuous combined operations, would we ascribe, *a priori*, such ancient mining works as exist on the shores of Lake Superior, overshadowed with the forest-growth of centuries. The Mounds constructed by the Ancient brachycephalic Race are in like manner overgrown with the evidences of their long desertion; and the condition in which recent travellers have found the long-forgotten cities of Central America, may serve to show what even New York, and Washington, and Philadelphia; what Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec, would become after a very few centuries, if abandoned, like the desolate cities of Chichenitza or Uxmal, to the inextinguishable luxuriance of the American forest growth.

The history of the cities of Central America is known, and the date is well ascertained when the irruption of a new race extinguished their advancing civilization, and threw back into primitive barbarism the remnant of the ancient race which they failed to extirpate. It seems no illegitimate assumption to affirm of the Mound-builders of the Mississippi, and the ancient Miners of Lake Superior, in like manner, that some great catastrophe,—the intrusion it may be of the present Red Indian Race, or more probably the still deadlier influence