

no doubt throw some additional light upon the archæology of the continent, such ruins containing the evidences of general customs and common arts among the distant tribes.

Embankments of earth styled "Indian Forts," and which are perhaps the ruins of the palisaded encampments the Hurons dwelt in, are said to be met with in the Townships of Beverley, Vaughan, Whitchurch, and the country about Lake Simcoe. The same tracts of country abound in tumuli, bone heaps, deposits of warlike stores,\* and other evidences of savage life; but the lapse of more than two centuries since the dispersion of the Huron race, their probable builders, by the Iroquois tribes, has made great havoc among their perishable contents. Some of these works, especially the palisaded enclosures, have been mentioned with more or less particularity by the early writers upon this country; but we may search in vain the records of that period for any allusion to certain other antiquities, and which are now objects of greater interest than the works described by them as appertaining to the savages they encountered. It is difficult to reconcile this omission with the general character of the writings of that era, for, in some parts, the traces of a more ancient race must have formed prominent features in the landscape of the country, passed and re-passed, on their way to and from the Far West, by explorers and missionaries, among whom were many close observers of Indian character.

Perhaps the omission may be accounted for upon the hypothesis that the race who erected the works, passed over unobserved, had been exterminated at a period so remote, that those whom the early travellers encountered possessed no tradition that would lead them to the discovery of existing ruins. In this category I place the mounds of the Bay of Quinté—the immediate subject of this paper—and which, though locally known for the last fifty years as artificial works, have not heretofore been mentioned in connection with the archæology of this Province. The similarity which the mounds occurring upon the shores of the Bay of Quinté bear to the barrows or tumuli described by American Antiquarians, and incidentally mentioned by other

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\* We were shewn, yesterday, a small bagful of Indian arrow heads, brought from Beaverton by Mr. Henry White. We understand that there are several cart loads in the place from which these were taken. They are all well shaped, and must evidently have been stored away in this place, at some remote period, for future use. Mr. White intends presenting the bagful to the Museum of the University of Toronto.—*The Leader Newspaper, Toronto, 10th July, 1860.*