

the Ontonagon River, extending 15 or 20 miles along the trap range each way from where it crosses the course of that stream.

They are also very apparent in the vicinity of Portage Lake. On Point Kewena they may be seen extending from the Forsyth location, (now Fulton,) eastward along the range about 20 miles, and across the Lake on Isle Royal, are abundant evidences of mining operations of the same era. The details, concerning the mode in which these mines were worked—the depth and extent of their excavations; the tools, implements, &c., used—may be seen in the Reports of the Government Geologists, and in Mr. Foster's paper on that subject in the Smithsonian Contributions.

I shall confine myself to the evidences which show the connexion, or rather the identity of the people who wrought these mines, with the "race of the mounds," which anciently occupied the State of Ohio, and from them to the Aztecs, the ancestors of the Mexicans.

That part of the discussion which connects the "race of the mounds" or the "mound builders" with the Aztecs, will be brief. The foundation for this relationship, is the learned work of Mr. Delafield, upon the Antiquities of America, where all the points bearing upon the question are most ably presented. If Mr. Delafield does not establish the point that the Mexicans are descendants of the "mound builders," he succeeds in giving his opinion as nearly the character of a demonstration, as the nature of the subject allows. Many of his proofs must, of necessity, rest upon tradition, which is always vague, upon symbolical paintings, sculptures, and characters, such as all the ancient, ignorant, and half civilized nations made use of, and which constitute their history, and their only history. We cannot expect, in such enquiries, the strict conviction, which is required under oral testimony in a court of law; if we did, there is little of written history that would command our belief. In affairs of such remote antiquity we must of necessity, deal in speculations and deductions, or we must abandon the subject altogether.

Nothing is better settled in ethnology, than that the North American Indian, or Northern Aborigines, belong to the Mongolian or Tartar family, which inhabits Northern Asia.

On the basis of craniology, according to which the human race is divided into families, by naturalists, the race of the mounds is unequivocally distinct from the North American Indian. Mr. Delafield's enquiry into the origin of the "race of the mounds," and the excellent work of Squier and Davis, upon the Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, show conclusively, that the ancient mounds of the Mississippi valley are the same as those of Mexico and Peru.

They have been examined from the western part of New York, southerly and westerly, through the States, on the Mississippi, to Texas, and thence through Mexico and Central America to Peru, and are found to have a common external appearance. The same elevated platforms of earth are seen in Ohio and in Mexico, on which, it is presumed, the same religious rites were once celebrated.

In Peru, the Spaniards, when they conquered that country, found lines and circles of embankment, with exterior ditches, situated on the summit of difficult hills, having the form and structure of the so-called "Indian forts," that are so numerous in this state.

At the South, these works are built on a larger scale than they are here, but after the same general pattern.

The mounds at Grave Creek, Virginia; at Miamisburgh, Ohio; at St. Louis, Mo.; and at Moorehouse Park, Louisiana, are

exceeded in bulk by the Pyramid of Cholula, in Mexico; but all belong to the same system. The similarity of the earth-works, over so large a space, is one of the links in the chain of evidence adduced by Mr. Delafield.

Another point is supported by historical proof. There are among the Mexicans, national annals, which say, that about the year 600 of our era, their ancestors migrated from the north, under an Emperor named *Citlin*, or *Fotan*. There have been comparisons made between three skulls, taken from ancient mounds in the valley of the Mississippi, and that belong to the race of the mounds, if any of the relics which are found here do; and three others, which were procured from ancient tumuli in Peru. —*Ancient Monuments*, see p. 291-2. Their anatomical proportions correspond so well, that craniologists pronounce them to be of the same family.

The pyramid of Cholula, which our officers visited during the war, is built of unburnt brick and of clay. The ruins of *Aztelan* on the Rock River, Wisconsin, show that brick were used in the construction of the walls; but which were partially burnt.

The Mexicans believed in, and worshipped, an evil spirit, which they called *Tlacatecalatl* or the "rational owl," and had made images of this bad deity in the form of an owl. The "mound builders," also made and deposited in their tumuli, images of the owl, which doubtless had some connexion with their superstitions, probably the same as the Mexican owls.

These are the principal proofs that the race of the mounds were the ancestors of the Aztecs, and of the Toltecs, a branch of the same family, who inhabited the country about Copan. There is, moreover, a tradition, and also hieroglyphical maps among the Mexicans, and credited by them, showing that their progenitors, like the Mongolian ancestors of our Indians, were *emigrants from Asia*, by the way of Behring's Straits.

I adopt the conclusions of Mr. Delafield, as to the mound builders, because it is not merely an hypothesis; but is based on strong analogies, and upon many facts.

To suppose that the "race of the mounds" has become extinct would be far more unreasonable, because it is contrary to the history of nations, and is sustained by no evidence.

Here I leave the subject of *identity* between the ancient Mexicans and the ancient race of the mounds; and turn to the consideration of the question, whether they are the people who wrought the copper veins of Lake Superior in ancient times.

Mr. Delafield observes, that there are traditions among the Indians, that their ancestors drove out a people who inhabited North America, and who occupied the ancient earth-works of the west. I have never been able to verify the existence of such a tradition; but in numerous cases, where Indians have been questioned upon the subject of the mounds, they have replied that they knew nothing about them, or the people who built them. The most probable theory, on this point, is, that the country was abandoned voluntarily by the Aztecs. These military works show no signs of having been attacked, or of having undergone protracted sieges. If they had been attacked, there certainly would have been resistance; for a people so numerous, and so well fortified, would not have fled like cowards before an enemy, however numerous, in the open field. An enemy could not have invested these fortifications without constructing *similar works of attack*. A permanent fortification, of any kind, cannot be carried by storm; but only after a tedious approach, sustained by works of a like kind, such as trenches of circumvallation and contravallation,