

houses, along with household-utensils and other articles of value which they wish to leave behind. They then fill up the orifices with earth, which they trample down and rake over; thus obliterating every trace of the excavation. Some *caches* are made under the floors of the houses, others outside, in various parts of the village-grounds; in each case, the distance and direction from some door, post, bedstead, fire-place, or other object is noted, so that the stores may be found on the return of the owners in the spring. Should an enemy enter the village while it is temporarily deserted, the goods are safe from fire and theft. This method of secreting property has long been in use among many tribes, has been adopted by whites living on the plains, and is referred to in the works of many travelers.

§ 6. CEMETERY.—BURIALS.—On the prairie, a short distance behind the village, are scattered around the scaffolds and the graves whereon and wherein are deposited the dead. Formerly, all who died in the village were placed on scaffolds, as is the custom with most of the Missouri Valley tribes; but the practice of burying in the ground, after the manner of the Europeans and Arickarees, is gradually becoming more common; and every year the scaffolds decrease, and the graves increase in number. When at a distance from their village on their hunts, if encamped in the neighborhood of timber, they lay the corpses in the branches of the trees instead of building scaffolds.

§ 7. PLACES OF WORSHIP.—There are, in the village, two open spaces, which, although of irregular shape, may be called squares; one of these is in the Mandan, the other in the Arickaree quarter. Beside each square stands a large round "medicine-lodge", or temple, built as described in the second paragraph of § 3, which is used for purposes that, in a general way, are called religious.

In the center of the Mandan square is a small circular palisade, about six feet high and four feet in diameter, made of neatly-hewn puncheons set closely together. It has somewhat the appearance of a large barrel, and is emblematic of the ark in which, according to Mandan mythology, the sole survivor