

showed 463 concentric circles, and as naturalists have conceded a years growth to each ring, this tree must have existed more than that number of years. On the ground lay huge decayed trunks measuring six yards in circumference, he then concludes that as these were not the first trees to grow on these ruins, they must have been abandoned 900 or 1000 years ago. On the same spot Sir Charles Lyell relates that in company with Dr. Hildreth in 1842, he saw a tree which when sawn, numbered 800 rings of annual growth. The late General Harrison, President of the United States in 1841, well skilled in wood-craft, remarked in a memoir upon this subject: "Several generations of trees must have lived and died before the mounds could have been overspread with that variety of species which they supported when the white man first beheld them, for the number and kind of trees were precisely the same as those which distinguished the surrounding forest." We may be sure, he observes that no trees were allowed to grow so long as the earthworks were in use, and when they were forsaken, the ground, like all newly cleared land in Ohio, would for a time be monopolized by one or two species of trees, as the white poplar, the hickory, the yellow locust, and the black and white walnut. When these had died out one after another, they would in many cases be succeeded (by virtue of that law which makes rotation in crops, profitable in Agriculture) by other kinds, till at last, after a great number of centuries, (several thousand years perhaps) that remarkable diversity of species characteristic of North America, and far exceeding what is seen in European Forests, would be established. Taking this in connection with the opinion of a celebrated naturalist who assumes that the oak is 500 years in growing, that it remains 500 years in *statu quo*, and is another 500 years in dying, and we get an idea of the great antiquity of the American Tumuli, on which enormous oaks are found growing amid the remains of other oaks reduced to dust from extreme old age.

ANCIENT HIEROGLYPHICS.

Hieroglyphic inscriptions have also been discovered at one time or other, in the States of Connecticut, Georgia, Kentucky Minnesota, Ohio and Rhode Island, while some, remarkably well preserved have, been found in the Islands of lake Erie. The red pipe stone quarries of the meadow hillocks in the western states conceal numbers, while others are met with in New Mexico. The most important and significant of these is that of Dighton rock. This rock is situated at the east of the mouth of the Taunton river in Manchuctka, the width of the rock is about 44 feet and the height in use about 5 feet; the surface is polished either by nature or by the hand of man. For a long

time it was covered with moss, detritus and dirt, so that the inscription was not noticed until the middle of the last century, when it became a subject of much interest and scientific discussion. The characters entering into the composition of this inscription are hieroglyphic, kyriologic, and symbolical, the strokes roughly sculptured seem to have been cut in the stone with a cylindrical instrument, the depth of the incision about two lines. It has been attributed by M. Mathieu (a french writer) to the Atlantes about the year of the world A. M. 1902, or 2102 B. C. Messrs. Yates & Moulton in their History of New York, say it is of Phenician origin.

In Grave Creek tumuli in western Virginia was also discovered an inscription of much interest. It was found buried with a skeleton in a mound containing two vaults; it is composed of twenty two characters in three lines with a cross and a mask engraved on a dark hard stone of an elliptic shape, about 2½ in. long and 2 in. wide and about five lines thick. Learned men who have examined this inscription most carefully, neither agree on its origin nor on the nature of its characters of which four had a resemblance to the Etruscan signs, four to the Thugga (Africa) five to the ancient Runic in Scandinavia, six to the Towarik, seven to the old characters found in Ireland, ten to the Phœnician, and fifteen to the Cettiberian, several resembling more than one kind of character. The divided state of opinion upon the relic only proves its uncertain character, and causes one writer to ask the questions concerning it, Is it a sign, a motto, an ornament, or an historical remembrance?

There is one fact full of meaning and of great historical significance among the evidences of civilization on this continent, to which I cannot help alluding, I refer to the evidences of "fountain worship." The ancient people of Peru, Mexico and the desert plains of the west have left traces, not only of the Phallic worship and its accompaniments but also of that ancient material worship, that believed the spiritual essence of things, to be manifested in the expressions of life around, them, God or Deity was seen everywhere, in everything; and thus they worshipped the sun, the moon, (which they supposed controlled the weather,) the stars, the earth, (which they called their mother,) the sun being "their father", the rivers and fountains. The Zunis above all, not using artificial irrigation to water their fields, and whose crops therefore depended entirely upon the rain that fell—believe to this day—if they neglect to make their annual offering to the spirit of the fountains their harvests will be destroyed by drought—Thus in Mexico, as in Ireland, Scotland, Ancient Carthage, Persia, Chaldea, Hindostan, China, and Arabia; holy wells are held in great reverence and esteem by