

other implements of bone, pottery, pipes both in stone and clay, and personal ornaments, receive the like detailed illustration; but nearly all are in the rudest stage of rudimentary art. Some advance upon this is seen in the pottery of some Southern States. That of the Mound-builders appears to have shown both more artistic design and better finish. The carving in bone, ivory, and slate-stone of various Western Tribes, as well as of the extinct Mound-builders, was also of a higher character. But taking them at their highest, they cannot compare in practical skill or variety of application with the industrial arts of Europe's Neolithic Age; and we look in vain for any traces of higher progress. For upwards of three and a half centuries, this continent has been familiar to European explorers and settlers. During some considerable portion of that time, by means of agricultural operations, and all the incidents consequent on urban settlement, its virgin soil has been turned up over ever increasing areas. For thirty years I have myself watched, with the curious interest of one previously familiar with the minute incidents of archaeological research in Britain, the urban excavations, railway cuttings, and others undesigned explorations of Canadian soil. Within the same period, both in Canada and the United States, extensive canal, railway, and road-works have afforded abundant opportunities for research; and a wide-spread interest in American antiquities has tended to confer an even exaggerated importance on every novel discovery. And with what result? Dr. Abbott, in crowning such explorations with his interesting and valuable discovery of the turtle-back celts and other implements of the Delaware gravel, has epitomised the prehistoric record of the Northern continent. The further back we date the presence of man in America, the more marvellous must his unprogressive condition appear. Whatever may be the ampler disclosures relative to the palæolithic or primeval race, it does not seem probable that this northern continent will now yield any antiquities suggestive of an extinct era of native art and civilization. Here we cannot hope to find a buried Nimrod, or Tadmor in the Wilderness. Everywhere the explorer wanders, and the agriculturist follows, turning up the soil, or digging deeper as he drains and builds; but only to disturb the grave of the savage hunter. The Mound-builders of its great river-valleys have indeed left there their enduring earthworks, wrought at times in regular geometrical configuration on a gigantic scale, strangely suggestive of some overruling and informing mind guiding the hand of the earth-worker; and fashioning his embankments with a skill derived from scientific knowledge. But the colossal mounds and earthworks disclose only implements of bone and flint or stone; with here and there an equally rude tool of hammered native copper. The crudest metallurgy of Europe's copper-age was unknown to their builders. The art of Tubalcain, the primitive worker in brass and iron, had not dawned on the mind of any native artificer. Only the ingeniously carved tobacco pipe, or the better fashioned pottery, gives the slightest hint of even such progress beyond the first infantile stage of the tool-maker as is shown in the artistic carvings of the Cave-men contemporary with the mammoth and the reindeer of post-glacial France.

The civilization of Central and Southern America is a wholly distinct thing; and, as I think, of Asiatic origin; but the attempts to connect it with that of ancient Egypt, suggested mainly by the hieroglyphic sculpturing on their columns and temples, find their confutation the moment we attempt to compare the Egyptian calendar with that either of Mexico or Peru. The vague year of 365 days, and the corrected solar year, with the great Sothic Cycle of 1460 years, so intimately inter-