

body is more than a thousand feet long. These are considered by Schoolcraft to be the totems of different tribes, but their use has not as yet been satisfactorily explained.

These people were tillers of the ground, and a dense population centred in the most fertile spots. Their pottery was of a high order, and that figured by Mr. Bancroft (iv. p. 780), is Mexican or Central American in design, like the tablet discovered in Cincinnati, figured by Professor Wilson (i. 177, fig. 1). The same may be remarked of the terra cotta figures of men. They used also elaborately carved pipes of stone, on which every indigenous bird, beast, and reptile is faithfully delineated, and among them are some creatures now only to be found within the tropics, such as the lamantin and toucan. They obtained also mica from the Alleghanies, and pearls and various marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico. Obsidian knives have also been met with, and copper in native lumps, or hammered into various implements and weapons. They were ignorant of the arts of casting, welding, and alloying, contrasting in these respects with the Mexicans. They used silver in small sheets wrapped about ornaments of copper or shell. Both these metals are native, and the natural alloy of the former points out that it was derived from the ancient copper mines of Lake Superior. Thus we are driven to believe that these people either worked the mines themselves or obtained their copper through barter from the miners. The magnitude of the operations carried on in these mines may be gathered from the fact that one block of copper, weighing upwards of six tons, was discovered in the Minnesota mine, mounted on an open frame preparatory to its being got out. We cannot accept Mr. Bancroft's view that the extreme difficulty of clearing forests and carving stone with implements of stone and soft copper, lends any weight to the supposition that the mound-builders were acquainted with the use of iron.

The mound-builders are proved to have been a numerous people by the magnitude and geographical extent of their works. They are considered by Mr. Bancroft to have been composed of tribes living under similar laws and religion, and possessed, on the whole, of the same habits of life; such variations as are observed being probably those which might be expected to be local. They lived by agriculture rather than on the chase, possessed considerable skill in the art of fortification, and sufficient mathematical knowledge to lay out perfect circles and squares. Their monuments 'imply a widespread religious system under a powerful priesthood. Private devotion manifests itself on a scale less magnificent, one involving