

ever, is a "great formation of ice which seems to have the characteristics of a regularly stratified rock." In some places this ice-rock is only two feet below the surface, which bears, nevertheless, on account of its low conducting power, a luxuriant vegetation.

We called attention last month to the fact that the Cherokee Indians possessed a written language before white men appeared amongst them. We have now to note that evidence is not wanting to prove that the "Mound Builders" had a written language. The evidence exists in the form of two inscribed tablets, having every appearance of genuineness, lately found in the mounds by some members of the Davenport, Iowa, Academy of Sciences.

At the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Cincinnati in August next, it is likely a proposition will be brought forward to invite the British Association to come to America in 1883 and hold their meeting in conjunction with the American Association, at some suitable place to be hereafter agreed upon. If such an united meeting can be secured, much benefit will doubtless be derived by members of both Associations.

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Though belief in Lord Beaconsfield was possibly higher among Canadians than in Great Britain, the gap his death has created there can hardly be appreciated here. Like Pitt and Fox, Disraeli and Gladstone passed from the associations of their younger days to the command of the two parties of the realm; but their pre-eminence in English politics is more like that of Pompey and Cæsar at Rome, when the old system of government was visibly giving way, than like that of the earlier rivals. And now that his rival is gone, Gladstone is the only living statesman of eminence (with the possible exception of the Duke of Argyll) who has made a literary as well as a political reputation. As the tendency to the specialization of functions increases, the combination of letters with politics will probably become rarer. It was nothing unusual in the past, and, if we confine our glance to the present reign, the names of Macaulay, Russell, Derby, Stanhope, Lord Campbell, Cornwall Lewis and Bulwer Lytton at once suggest themselves. But if in one way Disraeli was one of the last representatives of a double career, he will probably be looked upon as the earliest and best instance of individual talent winning the highest honours in spite of opposing circumstances. The progress of civilization has been shown by Sumner Maine to be one from Status to Contract, from position inherited to position made by ourselves. No man ever won higher place in England against greater odds. Yet if when he began his career Disraeli was an alien, when he closed it he could be called so no longer.

*Jam pridem Syrus in Tiberim defluxit Orontes,
Et linguam et mores....vexit.*