

Tam  
419.25  
C188r  
c.1I.—*Recently Discovered Relics of the American Mound-Builders.*

By JOHN CAMPBELL, LL.D.,

Professor in the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

(Read 25th May, 1898.)

During the past winter there have been sent for my inspection, and if possible, for my decipherment, photographs of caskets, inscribed tablets, and other objects, that were found some six years ago in some mounds in Michigan. The first to send me these photographs was Mr. C. H. Roberts, of Paris, Ont., a gentleman until then entirely unknown to me, who was led to consult me by his study of my volumes on The Hittites. Mr. Roberts was under the impression that the objects were of great antiquity; that the characters of the inscriptions were cuneiform; and that one pictured tablet represented the Deluge. Any one who has seen the photographs will admit that, however improbable these conclusions may seem, there is much in the aspect of the articles portrayed to justify them. As a photograph, however well taken, is poor material for the epigrapher, I induced Mr. Roberts to furnish me with accurate drawings of such mound inscriptions as were in his possession, either as originals or as casts of the originals. He kindly provided me with four complete inscriptions and several fragments. Of the four inscriptions, two short ones belong to separate sides of a terra cotta casket; the other two are on tablets, one of which contains the supposed Deluge scene.

On a careful examination of the workable material before me, I saw that I had to deal with something that was only new in the matter of grouping, in other words, with the old Turanian syllabary. This syllabary I was led into acquaintance with through Hittite studies, and, having mastered its various forms and their phonetic equivalents, I have published many decipherments of inscriptions made in its protean characters. Among these may be mentioned contributions to the Canadian Institute of Toronto on the Etruscan, Siberian, Lat Indian, American Mound-BUILDER, and Sinaitic inscriptions. The Celtic Society of Montreal published an article on the Turanian Inscriptions of the Isle of Man. For the Rev. Wentworth Webster, the author of *Basque Legends*, M. Henri O'Shea, author of *La Maison Basque*, *La Tombe Basque*, &c., and M. Victor Stempf, the Vasconist of Bordeaux, I have translated several so-called Celt-Iberian inscriptions found in various parts of Spain. During the past winter, I deciphered for Señor Don Juan Bethencourt Alfonso of Tenerife a number of similar inscriptions found in Hierro, one of the Canary Islands. And, at the meeting of the Australasian Association for