

mode of stating that civilization has not yet reached its highest attainable form."

Mr. C. N. Bell, of Winnipeg, read a paper on "The Mound Builders in Canada."

The scientific journals of the day are over-flowing with articles on the mound builders. Some writers take decided ground in claiming for the builders a remote antiquity, while others are equally positive in asserting that they were the immediate ancestors of our modern Indians. One becomes rather bewildered on finding that prominent champions of the above opposing theories rearrange themselves under different standards when the question arises as to where the Mound Builders came from. While some stoutly maintain that they were an offshoot from Central American stocks, many are confident that they came from the north. An immense number of data are produced as evidence in support of each one of these theories, but one fact seems to have been at least partially overlooked by writers. It is more than passing strange that no systematic attempts have yet been made to follow up towards the north the broad lines of mounds and other earthwork remains left by the mound builders. An immense number of mounds exist in Northern Minnesota and Dakota north of the valley of the Mississippi, and yet little has been done to survey or explore them. Two gentlemen in St. Paul lately informed me that they had surveyed some thousands of mounds in Minnesota, principally, however, south of the source of the Mississippi, but the northern districts were yet virgin soil for the archaeologists. Any information therefore that is forthcoming which extends northward the known limits of the mound builders' remains will be extremely interesting and valuable. Comparatively few archaeologists are aware of the fact that the Mississippi River mound system merges into one ranging up to Lake Winnipeg, if not farther. In 1867 two of the ordinary burial mounds of the truncated cone form were discovered on the right bank of the Red River in Manitoba, or, as it was then called, the Selkirk settlement. Some interesting remains were taken from them, including human and animal bones and skulls; ornaments of shell, bone and stone; implements of stone, and pottery, all of which (like too many of our Canadian archaeological treasures) were exported to enrich foreign museums. Little or no interest was taken in this matter for a num-