

built as means of defence.

It has been by investigating these tumuli that Mr. Squier and other researchers, have recovered such an assortment of the arts and manufactures of the lost people. The mounds were chiefly used as burial places for the dead; along with which were deposited ornaments of silver and copper, many of the most exquisite finish and workmanship, indicating that not only was the use of these metals well known, but a degree of perfection reached in their manufacture that would bear favorable comparison even with the products of a modern day.

Copper appeared to be the chief metal of use; it was found in every conceivable shape, and for every apparent purpose. Just here we may say that the great Copper mines of Lake Superior are generally conceded to have been first worked by the Mound Builders.

Rough ladders and stone tools of curious design were found in many places by the DeKellb Co. who minutely explored this region in 1847.

The Mound Builders appear to have possessed many mechanical contrivances; drills and turning-lathes were apparently known to them, as ornaments have been found of polished stone and shell which could only have been so perfectly finished with the aid of these instruments. They also possessed saws, if we can believe the evidence of bone remains taken from one of the mounds, which bear marks of having been sawed with a tool edged with iron or copper teeth.

From some of the tumuli were excavated altars of sacrifice, built of sun-dried bricks, mixed with rushes, indicating that the manufacture of the same was a process known and utilized among them. In the manufacture of pottery they rose to a positive art: not only was it turned with grace and finish, but its carving was of rare execution, representing on jars and bowls rich ornate designs; on pipes and various vessels a sculpture of birds, animals, reptiles, and even the faces of men, all produced with life-like fidelity to nature.

Musical instruments, fragments of doubled and twisted cloth, and many other articles have been found in the various States, all testifying in a greater or less degree the civilization to which the Mound Builders had reached.

In the execution of their various works they showed a mathematical correctness which might warrant them to the credit of having possessed a knowledge of geometry.

Parallelograms, circles, angles and squares are all found on critical measurement to be exact in their fitness of part to part.

These and many other indications of this unknown peoples are before us. Of their antiquity there can be no question; Many of the skeletons entombed in the mounds are crumbling to dust through age alone. Besides this the oldest traditions of the Indians who inhabited the districts wherein the mounds and tumuli are most thickly planted, contained no knowledge whatever respecting their origin, or of the people who built them. All, all, seem to have vanished from the stage of existence, leaving naught but silence and the night of oblivion over their once populous abodes.

One of the first questions presented to the student's mind regarding the Mound Builders,

is:—"Whence did they come?"—again—"Where did they go?"—Questions whose answer must be all, or nearly so, hypothesis.

Two theories are generally advanced respecting the direction whence they originally came. One is that they came from the North via the Behring straits from Asia; the other that they were from across the Atlantic ocean and first landed somewhere in the bend of the crescent shore of the Gulf of Mexico. Both theories are wholly hypothetical for aught we can glean from the testimony of the Mound Builders themselves, but of the two we are inclined to accept the Southern as the most rational. For, even granting that these mysterious people could possibly have by some especial providence forced their way over the untold leagues of Arctic plains and snows that lie between the Great Lakes and Behring Straits, to what land in Asia are we to look for their parentage? A glance at the geography reveals the frigid zones of Siberia stretching thousands of miles over the most North Easterly portion of Asia. These zones were never fruitful of human life, and never possessed a people with habits and customs akin to the Mound Builders. China is the only other country even within thousands of leagues of Behring Straits, and what is there among the Chinese to indicate any traits in common with the Mound Builders? Absolutely nothing! Besides the Chinese have the farthest reaching secular history in the world, dating ages before Christ. In it there is nothing of reference to even the knowledge of another continent. Therefore on these grounds alone the theory of primitive colonization of America from the North is untenable.

On the other hand there is much to be said in favor of the theory of their having come from the south. As Humbolt has observed: "The Mound Builders were eminently a water people" hence if once landed in the soil of America at some point on the Gulf of Mexico, we can understand them spreading along the coast line, far down into Florida, and westward until they came to the mouth of the Mississippi. Retaining their natural predilection for the water, they would follow the great stream along its course northward, forming settlements as they went. In the course of time they would reach the mouth of the Ohio River, where some would branch off, while the others followed the Mississippi until they came to the inflow of the Missouri, where another split would take place, a part still pursuing the waterway of the main stream, while the others turned north westward up the Missouri working gradually into Iowa, Dakota, and perhaps after the lapse of centuries reaching by the aid of the headwaters of the great stream they were following, the far away lands of Montana and Oregon.

In the meantime we can understand how the other two bodies, following their respective waterways, progressing slowly, steadily, laying the foundation of a nation as they went, would eventually reach the Great Lakes—following whose coast line they would discover the copper mines of Superior. Such a discovery to a people who have left so many proofs of the utility of that metal among them—would mean much. Naturally they would found colonies about the

mines for commercial trading; hence in time the population would extend into the Manitoba district to the remotest northerly points where the mounds are found to-day.

Thus, having covered that vast area of country within the boundaries already outlined, we can imagine the Mound Builders progressing quietly, multiplying in population, and living in internal harmony; perpetuating the rites and customs of their fatherland in this new land of their adoption, until mayhap after the lapse of centuries their unbroken quiet and peaceful avocations were rudely disturbed by the hostile incursion of a strong and warlike race or races. They would offer resistance of course; though, perhaps a comparatively feeble one, as we believe from all existing testimony, the Mound Builders were a peaceful people, whose practices were those of art and peace, and not of war. The outlying colonies being the first attacked would naturally fall back upon the denser settlements, where a stand would be maintained for a time. Eventually, however, the whole nation would be driven back, step by step, slowly, steadily, it may be, over centuries of resistance.

And now arises the question: Where did the Mound Builders ultimately retreat to? Were they finally exterminated, overwhelmed on all sides, until like the band of Spartan heroes, they perished to a man? Or were they driven into some other land, and if so, where? The last, we think, the most probable conjecture, but must leave our reasons for such supposition, and their consideration to a future paper.

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## THE FIRST SHOT FIRED IN WAR IN CANADA.

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In the dawn of civilization, men used for tools and weapons, stones split by fire and sharpened by rubbing them upon other stones. This age, which must have lasted for a long time beyond all conception, and of which we get but a faint idea, when we call it half a million or so of years, is now called the Old stone period, or in the mystical words of specialists, the Palæolithic time. When, by slow degrees, learning increased and the primitive arts became developed, men began to chip stones into various useful shapes, and this period, in which tools and weapons were made from flinty material by chipping, is called the new stone age, or Neolithic time. Relics of the former epoch are found deep buried under gravel drifts and sometimes even under artificial mounds; of the latter, evidences appear in graves or other merest scratchings of the present skin of the earth.

During both these periods, the surface of the world has been undergoing local changes of level; has sunk below the water, water has given way to land, a secular process still going on before our eyes, and whether during the early Neolithic period, America was joined to Asia or to Europe, or whether similar causes made the races of disconnected hemispheres independently adopt similar methods, matters little for our present purpose.

We find America, at the time of its discovery by Columbus, filled with Neolithic tribes, of