

them for any purpose other than the celebration of solemn religious festivals. In the saltpetre caves of Gasconada county Missouri, axes, hammers, and other implements have been found, which are perhaps of identical origin with some ancient works in that vicinity. Below the falls of St. Anthony is another cave or cavern, remarkable for its great length, and called in the Indian language, "the dwelling of the Great Spirit." The walls are composed of soft stone, easily yielding to the knife, and they contain many hieroglyphical figures, so covered with moss and defaced by time, as to be traced with great difficulty.

Within the Nitrous cave in Warren county, Tennessee, two bodies have been discovered buried in a sitting posture in baskets made of cane, the legs brought up close to the body. One was a male and the other a female. Great care has been taken to secure them in durable preservation, and at the time of discovery the flesh, teeth, hair and nails were still entire. They were enveloped in dressed deer-skins, and in a kind of cloth, of firm texture, woven from fibres of bark, and overlaid with brilliant feathers of various shades and color, elegantly arranged; another covering of undressed deer-skins succeeded, and the outside wrapper was cloth of the same kind, without ornaments. The female had a fan in her hand, made of turkey feathers, so arranged that it could be opened and closed.

Human bodies have been discovered in the same state; in the nitrous caves near Glasgow, and in the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky; all interred in the same sitting position, clothed in skins and cloths of various textures, inlaid with feathers—the bodies remaining in a high state of preservation, and the hair generally of a color varying from brown to yellow and red.

Within the same caves many other miscellaneous articles have been found, far below the surface, such as bows and arrows, earthenware, fishing-nets, cloths, mats, cane baskets, beads, wooden cups, mocassins made of bark, various utensils, and relics indicative of the character of the deceased with whom they were buried; and yet more singular the bones of the peccary, or Mexican hog, though being an animal of more southern climes. In general these caves have been great cemeteries of the dead, bodies being continually disinterred from the earth within them, and more than a hundred human skulls have been counted in one cave, within the space of twenty feet square. With regard to the color of the hair, observed upon these bodies, there can be no doubt that the original was black, and that the change to its present appearance is owing to the chemical action of the nitrous earth in which the bodies were deposited.

Human bodies found in Peruvian sepulchres in 1790 by the Spaniards, were withered and dried, and the hair of a red color. From their position and other accompanying circumstances they were undoubtedly the remains of the Peruvian Indian, the change in the hair having probably arisen from the character of the soil, it being strongly impregnated with saline matter.

A similar phenomenon has sometimes been

observed in the appearance of Egyptian numismatics, the hair having been changed in color, from black to red. The graves of the ancient inhabitants appear usually in the vicinity of the earthen remains and mounds, and when they are not within tumuli, frequently consist of a rude species of stone coffin, in which the deceased has been interred in a sitting posture. Such are the graves in Missouri, upon the Merimack river, concerning which so much speculation has been indulged.

Numerous other articles have been discovered in the prosecution of antiquarian researches in the regions of the west, but they afford no additional light concerning the state of the arts, or the customs of those extinct nations from whom they have proceeded.

REFERENCES TO INDIANS.

FROM GALT'S LIFE OF BENJAMIN WEST.

In beautiful contrast to the systematic morality of the new inhabitants, was the simplicity of the Indians who mingled safe and harmless among the Friends; and in the annual visits, which they were in the habit of paying to the plantations, they raised their huts in the fields and orchards, without asking leave, nor were they ever molested. Voltaire has observed that the treaty which was concluded between the Indians and William Penn was the first public contract which connected the inhabitants of the old and new world together, and, though not ratified by oaths, and without innovating the Trinity, is still the only treaty that has never been broken.

It may be further said, that Pennsylvania is the first country which has not been subdued by the sword, for the inhabitants were conquered by the force of Christian benevolence.

In the course of the summer a party of Indians came to pay their annual visit to Springfield, and being amused with the sketches of birds and flowers which Benjamin showed them, they taught him to prepare the red and yellow colours, with which they painted their ornaments.

Of all the monuments of ancient art in Rome, the obelisk brought from Egypt in the reign of Augustus, interested his curiosity most, and even for a time affected him as much as those which so agitated him by their beauty. The hieroglyphics appeared to resemble so exactly the figures in the wampum belts of the Indians, that it occurred to him, if ever the mysteries of Egypt were ever to be interpreted it might be by the aborigines of America.

This singular notion was not, however, the mere suggestion of fancy, but the effect of an opinion, which his early friend and tutor, Provost Smith, conceived in consequence of attending the grand meeting of the Indian chiefs, with the Governors of the English colonies, held at East Town, in Pennsylvania, in the year following the disastrous fate of Braddock's army. The chiefs had requested this interview in order to state to the officers the wrongs and injuries of which they complained; and at the meeting they evidently read the reports and circumstances of their grievances from the hieroglyphical

chronicle of the wampum belts, which they held in their hands, and by which, from the date of their grand alliance with William Penn, the man from the ocean, as they called him, they minutely related all the circumstances in which they conceived the terms and spirit of the treaty had been infringed by the British, defying the officers to show any one point in which the Indians had swerved from their engagements. It seemed to Dr. Smith that such a traditional detail of facts could not have been preserved without some contemporary record; and he, therefore, imagined, that the constant reference made to the figures on the belts was a proof that they were chronicles.

OBJEWAY CLAIMS.

Chief Noah Assance and Rev. W. A. Elias, Missionary on Christian Islands, called on their way home from Ottawa last Saturday. They were a deputation appointed to wait on the government in reference to further compensation for 28,000 acres of land, embracing the township of Tiny and Tay, which they claim were surrendered without authority in 1795 and for which only a nominal sum was received, and then mostly in trinkets of little value. They report having been graciously received by the Ministry, and a fair prospect of having their claims settled. Mr. Geo. Richie, Barrister of Toronto, has their case in hand, and accompanied them to Ottawa.—*Penet Herald*.

CROWFOOT'S THANKS.

THE BLACKFOOT CHIEF'S LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE C. P. R.

The following letter was sent by Crowfoot, the Blackfoot chief, to Mr. Van Horne, General Manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in acknowledgment of a perpetual pass over the line. The reference to the "chain and rich covering" is explained by the fact that the pass was framed in a nickel frame with a glass over it, and a chain attached whereby to hang it round his neck.

SOYA-PA-HA-KONG.

20 Natosse, 1886.

Isti-anakassaha, W. C. Van Horne.

Ikit-a tzi matzi mook, ino nanna, omakko nit arsitokki, ki tal-kokippip, sinakissin ni mokta kowapik-si isti anakassa o sokoy kono tapu kit innassin annaka eskimassi otakoi ki netapu ninan- Anni-ak nit arisitokke.

His

SAPU X MANIKOW.
mark

TRANSLATION.

BLACKFOOT CROSSING, 20 Feb., 1886.

Great Chief of the Railway, W. C. Van Horne.

I salute you O Chief, O Great. I am pleased with railway key, opening road free to me. The chains and rich covering of your name writing, its wonderful power to open the road show the greatness of your chieftness. I have done.

His

CROW X FOOT.
mark.