

their gold. Among the Moundbuilders, copper held the precise place which gold held in ancient Peru. Of hammered copper they made ornaments for their persons and their dresses, and wrought their most valued implements. In one grave-mound in Athens county, Ohio, Professor E. B. Andrews found about five hundred copper beads, forming a line around the space which had once held the body of the former owner. "When we remember (he writes) that the copper of the Moundbuilders was obtained from the veins of native copper near Lake Superior (a long way off from southern Ohio), where it was quarried in the most laborious manner; that it was hammered into thin sheets, and divided into narrow strips, by no better smith's tools, so far as we know, than such as could be made of stone, and then rolled into beads, it is evident that the aggregate amount of labor involved in the fabrication of the beads in this mound would give them an immense value."*

Cusick's "Golden City" was probably a city abounding in the precious red metal of the Lake Superior mines. "After a time," he proceeds, "the emperor built many forts throughout his dominions, and almost penetrated to Lake Erie. This produced an excitement. The people of the north felt that they would soon be deprived of the country on the south side of the Great Lakes. They determined to defend their country against the infringement of foreign people. Long, bloody wars ensued, which, perhaps, lasted about one hundred years. The people of the north were too skilful in the use of bows and arrows, and could endure hardships which proved fatal to a foreign people. At last the northern people gained the conquest, and all the towns and forts were totally destroyed, and left in a heap of ruins."

This tells the whole story, in the plainest language. There is not the slightest reason for supposing that this narrative is a fabrication. If it were, it would be the only discoverable invention in the book. But Cusick's work bears throughout the stamp of perfect sincerity. There is nothing in it drawn from books, or, so far as can be discovered, from any other source than native tradition. His story, moreover, receives confirmation, as has been said, from an independent and even hostile quarter. The Delaware Indians, who styled themselves Lenni Lenape, had a tradition closely agreeing with that of the Iroquois. This, too, has been overlooked or undervalued, through a manifest geographical error in those who first received and attempted to interpret it,—the error of supposing

*Report of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology for 1880, p. 61.