

birds, reptiles, &c. Not only are the features of the various objects represented faithfully, but their peculiarities and habits are in some degree exhibited. The otter is shewn in a characteristic attitude, holding a fish in his mouth; the heron also holds a fish; and the hawk grasps a small bird in its talons, which it tears with its beak. The panther, the bear, the wolf, the beaver, the otter, the squirrel, the racoon, the hawk, the heron, crow, swallow, buzzard, the paroquet, toucan, and other indigenous and southern birds; the turtle, the frog, toad, rattlesnake, etc., are recognised at first glance."\* To this comprehensive list Mr. Squier makes further additions in a work of later date. Contrasting the truthfulness of the carvings from the mounds with the monstrosities or caricatures of nature usually produced by the savage sculptor, he remarks: "they display not only the general form and features of the objects sought to be represented, but to a surprising degree their characteristic expression and attitude. In some instances their very habits are indicated. Hardly a beast, bird, or reptile, indigenous to the country is omitted from the list;" and in addition to those named above, he specifies the elk, the opossum, the owl, vulture, raven, duck, and goose, and also the alligator.† Of no less interest are the numerous examples of sculptured human heads, some of them presenting striking traits of individual portraiture, and which are assumed, from the minute accuracy of many of the accompanying sculptures of animals, to furnish faithful representations of the predominant physical features of the ancient people by whom they were made.

Compared with the monuments of Central and Southern America, the sculptured façades of the temples and palaces of Mexico and Peru, the friezes adorned with hieroglyphics, the kalendars, and colossal statues of gods and heroes, of Yucatan: the art which found its highest object in the decoration of a pipe-bowl is apt to appear insignificant enough. Nevertheless, the simplicity, variety, and expression of these miniature works of art, their evidence of great imitative skill, as well as of delicacy of execution, all render them just objects of interest and careful study. But high as is the value which attaches to them as examples of the primitive æsthetic arts of this continent, they have a still higher significance in relation to ethnological inquiries. By the fidelity of their representations of so great a variety of objects derived from the animal kingdom, they furnish evidence of a knowledge, possessed by these ancient artists of the

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\* Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley. Page 152.

† Antiquities of the State of New York. Page 338.