

The pyramids of Mexico and of the Mississippi Valley show that a mighty people once occupied this continent. This people was probably separated from its parent stock too early and too completely to permit the highest development, such as was seen along the shores of the Mediterranean in historic times. The pyramid-builders of America are believed to be of the same race as the pyramid-builders of Egypt, and their traditions and knowledge of architecture show a common origin. In his interesting work upon Atlantis, Ignatius Donnelly brings much evidence to show that the pyramid-builders of Mexico and the Mississippi Valley were colonists from Atlantis, and were practically cut off by the sinking of the island described by Plato, from communication with the East. Mr. Donnelly finds that the Western pyramid-builders preserved a tradition of a deluge, indicating it in their sculptures. He believes that the sinking of Atlantis was the deluge described in the Bible.

The pyramid-builders of America know the use of metals, and undoubtedly worked the copper mines of the Lake Superior region. They also understand the art of plating one metal upon another, by means of heat. Copper objects plated with silver have been found. The great pyramid built by these men on the Mississippi is thus described in a letter from Mr. Rainey to Senator Cullom:—

“The large mound, called Cahokia Mound, is a parallelogram with straight sides, the longer of which are north and south. It is about one hundred and two feet high. The top of the mound is flat and divided into two parts, the northern end being four or five feet higher than the southern portion, the summit containing about one and one-half acres. On the southern end, some thirty feet above the base, is a terrace or apron containing near two acres of ground. In the middle of this terrace, at the base of the mound, is a projecting point, apparently the remains of a graded pathway to ascend from the plain to the terrace. On the western side, and about thirty feet above the southern terrace, is another terrace of somewhat less extent. The side of the mound below the western terrace is very irregular, and forms projecting knobs. To the north-west corner of this large structure there seems to be a small mound attached. The remaining sides are quite straight. The base covers over sixteen acres. Cahokia is the largest pyramid in the world, surpassing the pyramids of Egypt in size. On the east and west sides of Cahokia mound are the smaller square mounds. The one on the east side is about fifteen feet high and contains about two acres on its summit. The one on the west side is much larger, being about twenty feet high. They are all straight and well defined, coinciding with the points of the compass, showing a superior knowledge not displayed elsewhere in the ruins or relics of this race of people.”