

ment, emphatically asserts that it is as well defined a formation as the Devonian or any other.

#### MOUND-BUILDERS AND INDIAN RELICS.

The systematic exploration of the Mound-builders' remains, by the United States Survey, has led to the conclusion that they were erected by the ancestors of the Red Man. This decision is undoubtedly satisfactory to Professor Lapham and a few of us who shared his views. It is amusing to reflect how slowly light dawned on this long debated matter. Dr. S. Peet, the editor of *The American Antiquarian*, Chicago, in an early paper, considers it absurd to suppose that the Indians—for instance, Dakotas, Cherokees, etc.,—were the Mound-builders, or that they were descended from them. Then later on follows the true conclusion, obtained apparently from more reliable data, that the Mound-builders were changed to the Indian merely by contact with the white man. Here we have no attempt to minimize the original mistake.

The Burial Mounds in the Northwest Territory, near Rainy River, appear to be more ancient than many opened in the United States. Mr. D. Young made a cutting into the one in which Dr. Bryce had previously obtained an earthenware vase. He found, it is said, the form of a man in a sitting position, with face towards the east, pieces of pottery beside him, as well as a large granite spear-head. The *Winnipeg Free Press* adds that Mr. Crowe also opened a trench in this Mound, in which was found a body in a like position, encased in birch bark. Unfortunately it was not stated whether the incision was made through the summit or not, and the United States explorers inform us that it is quite a common custom still for tribes of the Aborigines to inter their dead in such places.

A smaller Mound contained a skull and bones, with two vases, all of which fell in pieces when touched. Professor A. Lawson, an officer of the Canadian Geological Survey, found some copper beads and vessels, with three vases like the first one found by Mr. Bryce. Unfortunately the writer does not state whether the former was of native or "white men's" manufacture. I have seen a vase from an ossuary at the Beach which had been roughly hammered out of a sheet of Lake Superior copper. The same cemetery also contained