

Indians, and that, as in the Mexican Valley and in Peru, the greater portion of the population was combined under one central authority. Dr. Brinton, in a well-reasoned essay on "The Probable Nationality of the Moundbuilders," printed in the *AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN* for October, 1881, has pointed out the fact that the tribes of the Chahta-Muskoki family were mound-builders in recent times, and that their structures were but little inferior in size to those of the extinct population of the Ohio Valley. He sees reason for concluding that "the Moundbuilders of the Ohio were in part the progenitors of the Chahta tribes." Dr. Brinton's extensive research and his caution in deciding give great weight to his conclusions, to which I would only venture to suggest some modifications drawn from the evidences of tradition and language.

Mr. Morgan remarks that "from the absence of all traditional knowledge of the Moundbuilders among the tribes found east of the Mississippi, an inference arises that the period of their occupation was ancient." For the same reason he thinks it probable that their withdrawal was gradual and voluntary; for "if their expulsion had been the result of protracted warfare, all remembrance of so remarkable an event would scarcely have been lost among the tribes by whom they were displaced." Mr. Morgan's profound studies in sociology left him apparently little time to devote to the languages and traditions of the Indians; otherwise he could not have failed to notice that the memories retained by them of the overthrow and expulsion of their semi-civilized predecessors are remarkably full and distinct. We have these traditions recorded by two native authorities, the one Iroquois, the other Algonkin, each ignorant of the other's existence, and yet each confirming the other with singular exactness.

The remarkable historical work of the Tuscarora Cusick, owing to its confused and childish style, and its absurd chronology, has received far less attention than its intrinsic value deserves. Whenever his statements can be submitted to the test of language, they are invariably confirmed. He tells us that in ancient times, before the Iroquois separated from the Hurons, "the northern nations formed a confederacy, and seated a great council-fire on the River St. Lawrence." This confederacy appointed a high chief ("a prince," as Cusick calls him), as ambassador, who "immediately repaired to the south, and visited the great emperor, who resided at the Golden City, a capital of the vast empire." The mention of the Golden City has probably induced many readers of Cusick's book to relegate this story to the cloudland of mythology. But it must be remembered that to the Indians of North America one metal was as remarkable and as precious as another. Copper was, in fact,