

Wisconsin for the far west, and from their rapidly diminishing numbers, cannot long survive as a distinct tribe,—and also, in special reference to those of the remote north west, and on the shores of the Pacific, to Mr. Paul Kane, along with the information derived from inspecting a fine collection of Indian relics secured by him during three years travel in the Hudson Bay Company's Territory, and among the neighbouring tribes within the territories of the United States. A comparison of the facts thus obtained with some of the conclusions arrived at by others from the examination of the older traces of the custom and usages of smoking, appear calculated to throw some additional light on the latter, and especially to modify the opinion derived from the investigation of examples of the ancient arts of the Mound Builders, and other aboriginal traces of this continent.

Insignificant, and even puerile, as the subject of the tobacco pipe appears, it assumes an importance in many respects only second to that of the osteological remains of the ancient races of this continent when viewed as part of the materials of its unwritten history. In Messrs. Squier and Davis' valuable "Contribution to Knowledge"* the tobacco pipes found in the ancient sepulchral mounds of the Mississippi Valley are specially noted as constituting not only a numerous, but a highly interesting class of remains, on the construction of which the artistic skill of their makers seems to have been lavished with a degree of care and ingenuity bestowed on no other works. "They are sculptured into singular devices: figures of the human head, and of various beasts, birds, and reptiles. These figures are all executed in miniature, but with great fidelity to nature." Thus, for example, the authors remark in reference to one pipe-head (Fig. 183, p. 268,) carved in the shape of a toad: the knotted, corrugated skin is well represented, and the sculpture is so very truthful that if placed in the grass before an unsuspecting observer, it would probably be mistaken for the natural object; and they further add: "those who deem expression in sculpture the grand essential, will find something to amuse as well as to admire, in the lugubrious expression of the mouths of these specimens of the toad." The same writers again remark, in describing the immense deposit of pipes found on the "altar" of one of the great mounds in the Scioto Valley, some of them calcined, and all more or less affected by the fires of the ancient ceremonial of cremation or sacrifice:—"The bowls of most of the pipes are carved in miniature figures of animals,

* Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, pages 228, 229.