

ferred to were the construction of the Aztecs or Toltecs. However all these towns are so ancient that no Indian tradition makes any mention of them.

Humbolt, speaking of these remains of the unknown past, in which might be included the ruins of populous cities, possessed of much grandeur, the wonderful signs of mechanical and architectural science which are manifest in the construction of the palaces of Tezcotzinco, the temple of Xochicalco, and the colossal stone calendar of Mexico, says: "Certain it is that they are the work of a great people, of an intelligent nation, whose civilization was far superior to that of the actual tribes."

These ancients seem to have possessed a knowledge of astronomy, as all their structures had either four entrances, four corners or towers, answering to the four cardinal points. Among the Casaca Grandes are met numerous ruins, among which is a tumulus, surrounded by an earthen wall 100 yards in circumference. A little from this is a large round terrace, 100 yards by 70, supporting a pyramid thirty feet in height by twenty-five yards at its summit, commanding a view of a plain extending north, east and west on the left bank of the *Gila*. The Pimas Indians have a legend connected with these ruins, which runs thus: "They pretend that these constructions were erected by the son of the most beautiful woman that ever existed, and who formerly lived in the neighboring mountains. Her extreme beauty caused her to be loved by a multitude of suitors but she refused to marry; when they visited her they paid her tribute, and by means of this resource she provided for the people during times of famine, without provisions ever falling short. At length one day she fell asleep, and from a dewdrop descending and falling upon her bosom, she conceived, and gave birth to a son, who built these houses and many others to the north and south west. Among all these ruins are found beads and painted pottery, perforated shells, which antiquarians believe were used as coins or ornaments.

The valleys of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers are rich in monuments of various kinds, dating from a period anterior to the historical era. In Ohio alone the number of ancient mounds, wells, &c. have been estimated at ten thousand. The American mounds are divided by antiquarians into four classes, viz: altars, tombs, temples, and tumuli of no determinate character. Out of 100 examined 60 had served as temples; twenty for tombs; and the rest were places of observation or mounds the uses of which could not be determined. Their plan and construction differ according to the situation.

In the vicinity of the great lakes, and in the States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and the western territories they are made of earth, of conical form or in the shape of animals,

birds and reptiles or even in that of man. Appearing like immense *Bassi reliev* carved out on the soil by the hand of giants. In the interior of these monuments relics of art have been discovered belonging to a very ancient period, and consisting of personal ornaments, domestic utensils and articles connected with religious worship, made of different metals and of *Pietra dura*, also polished stone and copper implements.

In the valley of the Ohio, these earth works are larger, more numerous and of a more regular construction, in many instances surrounded by earth works or stone walls, and give the best indication from their number and size, of the mightiness or at least the multitude and superiority of the populations by which they were constructed. Advancing southward these antiquities are remarkable for the great regularity of their structure and their extraordinary size, and in these southern parts only, have traces of brickwork been detected in their construction. In Florida and Texas these mounds are composed of several stories, somewhat resembling a Mexican *Teocallis* in their pyramidal form, dimensions, lofty passages, spacious terraces, and long avenues, they are often surrounded by smaller ones placed at regular intervals, some with paths winding around them from the base to the summit; others have gigantic steps like slips in European fortifications.

Enclosures are rare in Florida but those of a military character have been discovered in the *Carolinas*. Courts or amphitheatres seeming to exist in the far South, the object seems to have been that of public amusement, as in the amphitheatres of Rome. The tetragonal terraces are apparently foundations for elevated fortifications, while the pyramidal hillocks are supposed to have served as observatories commanding a view of a wide extent of country. In Florida frequent vestiges of extensive roads are met with, some running in a straight line for 60 to 75 miles. These highways were elevated above the surrounding plain, and appear to have led to the great centres of population, of which traces still exist; after traversing ruins of towns and villages they terminated at the foot of one of these artificial teocalli, or *hill-dwellings* of their chiefs. Few American curiosities are more striking to the imagination than these great roads. The elevated structures or mounds of Florida were usually square shaped, sloping on one side to the road or reached by a series of wide steps, leading to the summit of the monument. The Indian population whom Columbus found here had no knowledge of the origin or uses of these structures, which were covered equally with the surrounding country by forests of gigantic growth. Time will not permit a minute description of the various remains found strewn the surface of the neighboring republic, but in addition