

than to admit that the stone and copper axes, pipes, arrow heads, and coarse pottery of the same character, and which are everywhere found, were made by different tribes. Thus a race possessing a knowledge of mound building, in common with very distant tribes, may have been dispossessed by the Massassaga Indians, when they came, as tradition relates, from the Upper Lakes. But this is mere conjecture, and like all other theories depending in any manner upon imagination or Indian tradition, should be received with caution.

The theory so commonly held that certain relics of rude art, found among tribes who cannot be supposed to have made them, have been procured by barter, I think, from what is known of Indian character, not to be well founded. I am inclined to believe that the sculptured images, as well as the copper implements, are the fruits of distant wars; the tribe last possessing them have taken the articles by force from some more western or civilized people. This argument receives strength from the fact that the whole system of earth-works throughout the west shows that a terrific struggle was there waged for an existence; but with what result such heroic efforts were made to defend civilized communities against overwhelming barbarous hordes, the Cyclopean embankments of those regions are the only memorial. When we find, however, the vestiges of a wide-spread race, or monuments that point to one common idea, intermingled with works of a superior order, and meet with evidences of a certain civilization in parts equally distant, perhaps the fruit of plunder, we may form some conception of the turmoil that once agitated this continent.

A further examination of the mounds on the Bay of Quinté, undertaken in the month of August last, in company with Henry Cawthra, Esq., of Toronto, has led to the discovery in them of human remains and objects of curiosity and art. These remains clearly point out the purpose for which the works in question were erected, and prove them to belong to the class of sepulchral mounds, such as the observations of Drake, Squier, Schoolcraft, and many other writers, show to exist over a very wide range of country.

A brief description of the work in which the remains were found, with the aid of the accompanying lithographic plates, prepared from accurate sketchings taken at the time by Mr. Cawthra, will enable the reader at once to understand the nature of all the mounds in the Bay of Quinté region.