

burial-mounds of different countries, naturally leads us to infer the similarity or identity of the builders of these tombs.

The burial-mounds of America are of two kinds. The first kind contain a skeleton on a level with the base of the mound, placed usually in the middle of it, either on a layer of bark or on mats in the naked earth, or in a square chest formed of unhewn logs or of stones, laid one above the other. These mounds consist of earth taken from the vicinity of the place where they are erected, some of them being based on a course of stone, and others being covered with a layer of gravel. They bear the most unmistakeable similarity to the barrows of the Orkney islands,²⁰ in which the skeletons are likewise deposited in chests; and to the graves of Germany, in which, as at Nienburg on the Saale in the dutchy of Anhalt, stone chambers are found.

The second kind of burial-mounds contain in the centre, and resting on the original surface of the ground, a hollowed, trough-shaped hearth of clay or stones of various dimensions and height. In these mounds are found urns with the remains of burnt corpses.²¹ These burial-mounds likewise consist of the earth of the vicinity, but are so constructed that two or three layers of sand half-an-inch thick alternate with thick layers of earth, and the surface is covered with a coating of gravel. Mounds of sepulture of this kind are also found in Europe, with perhaps the sole exception of the layers of sand, which have not to my knowledge been met with. In Altranstadt, in the province of Sachsen, Kingdom of Prussia, a tumulus of this kind was dug open in the year 1849. It consisted of earth from the vicinity, had resting on the original surface a hearth of clay, which material is not found in the neighbourhood, and consequently must have been brought from a distance; and, concealed about a foot below the surface, an urn of excellent workmanship, a glass with a long foot, the remains of a knife and of a comb, and the ashes of the dead.

These sepulchral tumuli are sometimes placed so close together that two circular mounds have become a single egg-shaped one, in which case there is, perhaps, a union of one mound with another more ancient.²² This combination of two or more mounds into one is also met with in Europe.²³ The height of these mounds varies in America as in Europe from five to fifty feet and over, although usually as in Europe they do not exceed from twelve to sixteen feet.

The mound builders of America observed the same custom as those of Europe in the burial of their dead; they placed in the grave along

20. Bilderatlas zum Conversations-Lexikon, Abtheil. VII. Pl. 203, Text, p. 82. Comp. Squier, Anc. Mon. p. 162, Fig. 50 and 51; and p. 169, Fig. 55.

21. Squier, Anc. Mon. p. 143, sqq.

22. Squier, Anc. Mon. pp. 149, 155, 178.

23. Bilderatlas zum Conversations-Lexikon. VII. Abtheil, Text, p. 81.