

and numerous fine sculptures of the same material. Three million cubic feet of earth were used in the erection of this ancient memorial of the Mound Builders. The conclusion suggested to careful observers is that all the most important ancient monuments, whatever their magnitude, were built of sun-dried bricks. Many of those of a circular form are *exact* circles, one 1050 feet in diameter; some of the rectangular works are exactly square, and five or six measure 1070 feet a side, a coincidence which must possess some significance. Of the numerous, intelligent, and powerful people who once occupied the valleys of the Mississippi, we know absolutely nothing. Like the ancient miners of Lake Superior they are gone and have only left their works of combined industry behind them, to tell that before the forest which now waves over the Mississippi valley existed they were there, active, energetic, intelligent, and perhaps in a measure civilized. Their Sepulchral mounds, Sacrificial mounds, and Symbolic mounds, are scattered everywhere over the broad Mississippi valley, as far as the northern lakes. They have been fully investigated and described by numerous American writers, and Dr. Wilson's chapters on the subject afford an excellent summary of the results of their researches.

Ancient Mexico and Peru are next graphically described, and many of the "cloud capped towers and gorgeous palaces" of ancient Mexico are stripped of their marbled glories, and reduced to the ordinary level of sun-dried brick. Of Peru, the author makes the following important observation. "But for the more intellectual tribes and nations whose ancient monuments lie to the south of the Rio Grande del Norte, not without intermingling some faint traces of their influences along the more northern regions of the Pacific; and, perhaps, also, even for the strange and mysterious race of the mound-builders, the most probable hive of America's civilized and semi-civilized nations, appears to me to be sought for in the rich plateaus of the Peruvian Cordilleras, where the country rises through every change of climate under the vertical rays of the Equator; and its rocky steeps are bound with exhaustless treasures of metallic ores, in such a condition as to lead man on step by step from the infantile perception of the native metal or a ductile stone, to the matured intelligence of the skilled metallurgist, mingling and fusing the diverse ores into his most convenient and useful alloys."

The first volume closes with a chapter on "THE ARTISTIC INSTINCT: IMITATION." The author had the opportunity of examining some of the relics of the mound-builders which were figured by American artists, and from the exaggerated representations, bold conclusions were drawn by some respecting the identity of the Red Indian race and the mound-builders. But the more accurate delineations of Dr. Wilson upset this view, and although he shows a striking connection between the sculptured representations of the mysterious race and the form of the skull, yet they remain mysterious still.

The Peace Pipe is the peculiar characteristic of the Red Man, and the tobacco plant, a native of America, one of the coveted of his luxuries. Even among the mound-builders, the practice of smoking was very general, if not universal. The traditions and legends connected with the Peace Pipe and the