

Russian forts on which could easily have destroyed the British fleet which penetrated into the Sea of Azoff, had they who manned them had adequate ammunition and courage.

The Cimmeric Bosphorus was the extreme limit of Grecian colonization in this direction, and was once the seat of one of the most flourishing Greek settlements. The Greeks found the peninsula inhabited by a race called Cimeri, from whom comes the word Crimea, the name of their country. A Greek colony from Miletus, in Asia Minor, the brethren of *Ephestus*, was voluntary about 300 years before Christ, near the present town of Kertch, which is situated on the strait between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff, and was a place of much importance and notoriety during the latter part of the war. The colony of Cherson was established about the same time, near Inkermann, where English blood was poured so profusely. History records that the Cimmericans were expelled, and succeeded by the Tauri, a savage and cruel race, who offered human sacrifices to their gods, and cut their dwellings out of the solid rock, which may be seen at the present day about the town of Kertch. The Scythians descended from the mountains of Thibet, in Tartary, and in turn conquered Tauri. But the Greek colonists had the control of Pontus on the opposite coast of the Black Sea and crossing over in force, expelled the Scythians, and founded a kingdom of their own; and such was the fertility of the soil, the salubrity of the climate, and the enterprise and industry of the people, that it soon attained to great prosperity, and became the granary of Athens. The new city, which they built near the present site of Kertch, they dedicated to the god Pan, giving it the name of Panticapeum; and the vine being found to grow there luxuriantly, the colonists very naturally joined the worship of Bacchus with that of Pan. About fifty years before Christ, this colony became subject to the Romans, for the reason that its kings, who also ruled in Pontus, had been subdued by the same nation. A. D. 375 this colony was utterly destroyed by the Huns, who were then spreading their ravages far and wide, to whom one barbarous horde succeeded after another, till the year 1280, when the Genoese, the adventurous merchant princes of the age, took possession of the territory, which they held till they were expelled by the Turks in 1473, who were in turn dispossessed by the Russians in 1771, who have since held undisturbed possession of the Crimea till the late war.

Panticapeum was built upon a plateau extending along a range of heights, and needed no art to add to the beauty of its situation, the sea washing it on three sides, and its height commanding an extended view of the surrounding country, and of the coast of Circassia beyond the Sifais; for a considerable period the royal seat of the Bosphorian Kings, and once the residence of Mithridates the Great, its ruins, of which some remain in a very perfect state, indicate its original opulence and splendor.

The most striking features about Kertch, which occupies, as we have observed, almost the very site of this famous old city, are the immense *tumuli*, or artificial mounds somewhat like those found in our great West. Designed for sepulchres and monuments of the dead, they are fitted for endless duration, as well as to excite admiration. Their size and magnificence awaken amazement for the wealth and power of the people who erected them. It is a tradition

believed by the people in this part of the Crimea, that these tumuli were erected over the remains of the kings and rulers of this Greek colony, and were designed to perpetuate their memory. It is also related that the earth was heaped upon them annually on their birthday, for a period of years as long as they ruled or reigned. These layers have been distinctly traced recently, as a coating of sea wall or char coal was first laid on. Dr. McPherson, an English officer, counted thirty of these layers in a scarp made in one of the mounds two-thirds of the way from the base. The tumuli are of hundred feet in circumference, and from five to one hundred and fifty feet in height.

Usually they are composed of surface soil, and rubble masonry. Specimens of the highest Grecian art have been found in these, such as sculptures, metals, alabaster, Etruscan vases, glass vessels remarkable for lightness, carved ivory, coins of the most perfect finish, and trinkets vying with the skill of the best modern workmen. Dr. McPherson having descended many feet underground in exploring one of these tumuli, came upon a bed of ashes, the bones of a horse, a human skeleton, and other remains were met with; and on removing the masonry, fibule and bronze coins, were picked up in niches between the stones. This one tumulus was so large that Dr. McPherson devoted two whole months to explore it.

But the most astonishing monuments of early wealth and power are found on Mons Mithridates. The whole of this hill, from its base to the summit, and the spot extending from it, to the distance of three miles, are composed of broken pottery and debris of every kind to the depth of from ten to even a hundred feet over the natural clay hill. The height and size of this work of the Milesian colonists are such that it can hardly be believed to be the work of human labor, but must be the work of a giant race long extinct. At any rate, ages must have been required to convey the soil from the plains below to raise it and the adjacent heights to their present elevation. On the top of the hill is a monument, inducing awe as well as wonder—a rude chair cut out of the rock and a hollow resembling a sacrificial altar. Thus men in every age add an “unknown God,” and testify to a consciousness of sin and the felt necessity of an atonement.

One of the Doctor's explorations was so fruitful in results as to deserve particular narration. Beneath an extensive sloping tumulus he came upon a mass of table masonry, beyond which was a door leading to an arch-chamber, which led into another arch-chamber which was larger still, and whose walls were marked off in squares, with here and there birds, flowers and grotesque figures of various kinds. Over the entrance of the chamber were painted two figures of griffins rampant, while two horsemen, one a man of authority, and another his attendant carrying his spear, were rudely sketched on one of the walls. The skeleton of a horse was also found, near to which was lying a human skeleton. Continuing his exploration, he struck upon a tomb cut out of the solid rock close by which he came upon the skeleton of a horse. In another tomb the floor was covered with beautiful pebbles and shells, such as are now found on the shores of the Sea of Azoff. The dust of the human form, retaining yet the form of man, lay on the floor. The bones had crumbled into dust and the mode in which the garments enveloped the body, and the knots and fastening

with which they were bound, were easily traceable in the dust. Several bodies were discovered, at the head of each of which was a glass bottle, and in one of the bottles was found a small quantity of wine. A cup and a herymatory of the same material, and also a lamp, as was common in the East, were placed in a small niche above each body. A coin and a few enamelled beads were placed in the left hand, and in the right a number of walnuts. Other tombs were explored, and various objects of interest found.

Herodotus, the father of history, gives an object. “The tombs of the Scythians kings are seen in the land of Sberri, at the extreme point to which the Borysthenes is navigable.—Here, in the event of a king's decease after embalming the body, they carry it to some neighboring Scythian nation. The people receive the royal corpse, and convey it to another province of his dominions; and when they have conveyed it through all the provinces, they dig a deep, square fosse, and place the body in the grave in a bed of grass. In the vacant space around the body in the fosse, they now lay one of the king's concubines, whom they strangle for the purpose, his cup bearer, his cook, his groom, his page, his messenger, fifty of his slaves, some horses, and specimens of all his things. Having so done, all fall to work throwing up an immense mound, striving and vying with one another who shall do the most.”

Thus the Scythians and our Indians had common ideas and objects, widely as they were separated, and the brotherhood of man is traced among savages as well as the living.

Leaves from my Note-Book.

BY WOODCUTTER.

FOREST LIFE IN INDIA.

In consequence of the lateness of the monsoon, I did not enter the forest till the end of July, and came out in November, having led the life of a sporting angel. There, elephants were scarce, owing to our cutting teak in their favorite haunts. I was fortunate in killing four out of the five tuskers I fired at. The first I dropped at the second shot; the second gave more trouble. Having in the morning stumbled on a brace of bears, they took nine shots before they would deliver up their skins to me. This made a hole in my small powder-flask; so that when I had fired twelve shots into the tusker's head, I had not a grain of powder left. The elephant, still strong, but stone-blind, with one eye shot out, and the nerve of the other cut right across, I had what I imagine few people have had, namely, a game of blind-man's buff with a wild elephant. I tried to drive him home, but it was no go; so I stood guard over him all that day, and the next morning I found him dead. The ivory brought me £25; so you may imagine they were not sucking toads. With bison, I was not so lucky. I could not at first hit them in the right place, and lost numbers; however, I got more in the way of it before I left, and bagged in all thirteen; two of them such fighting devils. Having expended all my bullets on one iron old buffer, I was reduced to the necessity of trying my hunting-knife to the end of a bamboo, and finishing him in that novel mode; an uncommonly ticklish one, I can tell you and one I should not like to try often. I bagged a very fair sprinkling of elk (Sambar), spotted deer, and jungle sheep; but