

Out of this cañon and looking north is the real landscape the ancient artist had attempted to portray with his brush. The lone Dome mountain, the three points in the Wilson mountain, the sharp points of the Needles and the La Plata mountains, which extended into the blue ether, with the dark landscape below, give a suggestion of the study of this prehistoric artist.

On the walls of other rooms are pictures of birds and animals, and in a few instances characters resembling Greek letters are seen. The construction of some of these walls, for beauty and artistic skill, cannot be excelled to-day. One semi-circular room was built so accurately, with hammer-dressed stones, that it attracts the admiration of all visitors. The caps and sills of the openings were level, and the casings on the sides of the openings so plumb that there is little doubt that this ancient people used the square, and the level, and plumb, and were familiar with geometrical curves, lines and angles.

These cliff dwellings seem to have been the fortresses of a despairing people. It seems well-nigh incomprehensible that the inroads of their mysterious enemies should have permitted the erection of these painstaking structures, which, considering the imperfect tools of the builders, and the almost insurmountable difficulties of the situation chosen—could only have been constructed by the aid of a perfected system of *peonage*, and which must have covered long periods of time in building. It is none the less strange that a nation of numbers sufficient to construct such laborious edifices, did not prefer the alternative of fight, to an existence of concealment, labor and flight. That her walls were her soldiers' breasts, could never be said of the cliff-dwellers' land.