

shafts. Curiously enough this copper was wrought cold; the workmen appear to have been unacquainted with the smelting power of fire, and therefore though they used metal for their implements, they may in one sense be said to have lived in the Stone Age, since they used their copper as if it were stone.

The earthworks are chiefly found in the central parts of the United States. They decrease in number towards the Atlantic, west of the Rocky Mountains, and in British America. Some of the defensive earthworks are of immense proportions. We are told of one near Newark in the Scioto Valley which covers an area of four square miles. The walls at the gateway of this fortification are sixteen feet high, and the ditch thirteen feet deep.

Many of these ancient monuments are being rapidly obliterated by the plow, or covered with buildings; so that before long the writings and sketches of archeologists will afford the only proof of their existence. As to art, the primitive men of America were far in advance of their contemporaries. In Europe the primitive pottery is of the rudest description, and "in no single case," says Dr. Wilson, "is any attempt made to imitate leaf or flower, bird, beast or any single natural object," whereas in America the art of pottery had attained to a high degree of perfection. Some of the vases found in the tumuli, rival in elegance of model, delicacy and finish, the best Peruvian specimens. The tobacco pipes are, of course, the distinctive American feature. Many of these are ornamented with spirited representations of birds and beasts. On the pipes dug from the the mines of Ohio, there have been found no less than seven representations of the Manatee, a sort of tropical walrus, now found only off the coast of Florida, a thousand miles away. This fact would imply either that the Ohio men of that age were as fond of locomotion as their modern representatives, or that some great change has occurred in the distribution of animal life. This fondness of depicting birds and beasts, is curiously illustrated by the "animal mounds," as they are called, which are principally found in the southern counties of Wisconsin, and are elevations of from one to four feet in height, representing on a gigantic scale, men, buffalo, elk—in fact, quadrupeds, birds and reptiles of every description.

Near Greenville, Ohio, there is an earthwork 250 feet long, representing an alligator, and in another county, in the same State, a serpent winds for one thousand feet along the spur of a hill. The Indians, although reverencing these animal mounds, are unable to afford any clue to their origin. In making the streets of Milwaukee, several of them were entirely removed. They are not sepulchral, and, except by accident, they contain no implement or ornament.

More interesting even than the records of the Bronze age, because indicating a period of much greater remoteness, are the remains of the cave dwellers, as found in the south of England and various parts of France. In these caves, often buried under a thick gathering of stalagmite, have been found buried human remains and works of art, such as arrows, beads and flint knives, together with the bones of extinct quadrupeds; a human skull was discovered, in no wise differing from the skulls of the present race. "It is," says Prof. Huxley, "a fair average skull, which might have belonged to a philosopher, or might have contained the thoughtless brains of a savage." The celebrated cave of Aurignac, in the south of France, was discovered by accident. A peasant seeing a rabbit run into a hole on a steep slope, put in his hand, and to his surprise, pulled out a human bone. Further search produced no less than seventeen human skulls. Unfortunately for the interests of science, the mayor of Aurignac caused these skulls to be re-interred, and when some years after M. Lartet, an antiquarian, explored the cavern, they could not be found again. The bones of numerous quadrupeds—some of extinct, others of existing species, and as many of the bones bore the marks of knives, he concluded that the cavern had been used as a burial place, and that finally feasts were held there. No implements, however, appear to have been discovered at Aurignac, nor is it possible to prove that the human skulls found there belonged to the same period as the bones of the mammoths and the rhinoceros.

The climate of Western Europe must have been very different at that time to what it is now. The presence of the reindeer, the chamois and the ibex indicate a climate of arctic severity. The mammoth, as is well known from the almost perfect specimen discovered in Siberia, was a native of cold countries; and the rhinoceros, with his woolly coat, was evidently intended to endure a more freezing temperature than his modern representative. Again, the accumulation of animal remains in these caves would have been insupportable to the human inmates if the climate had resembled that of the present day; it is only within the arctic circle that we find the modern savage dwelling with impunity surrounded by heaps of bones and flesh. But how, under these circumstances, are we to account for the presence of the hippopotamus, an animal which, according to our present notions, would find himself exceedingly inconvenienced by frost? Some investigators have supposed that the hippopotamus migrated during the cold weather—a very improbable course when we consider their unwieldy bulk and slow progress on land; others and apparently Sir John Lubbock among them, incline to think that the hippopotamus does not belong to the same epoch as the other animals; that he represents a period of excessive heat, just as they represent a period of excessive cold.

CHURCH PROPERTY AND CONFISCATION.

"During the last ten years the Italian government confiscated and sold \$106,000,000 of church property.—*Newspaper item.*

Such is the end. There are three steps in all. Privilege, undue accumulation, and confiscation. In France there were the same steps and the same result; and we know the history of Mexico — it tells the same story. Shall we profit by these lessons, or shall we go blindly drifting on over the same sea, beneath whose tossing waters lie thick strewn the wrecks of nations and states, sent to the bottom because they had not yet learned the law of justice and religious liberty? Does not the Church herself know that such wrong always brings its sure retribution, or are her magnates careless alike of the woe or woe of their successors? They can bask in the sunshine of present prosperity, but those to whom they shall transmit the legacy of their privilege-bought wealth must face the storm when the day of reckoning shall have arrived. Where is their charity, their ostentatious love, their loudly paraded brotherly kindness? Do they vainly imagine that from this day onward their accumulating is to go on unchecked; that their property, exempted from all the burdens of government, is henceforth to be allowed to pile up without let or hindrance, while all other property which has to compete with it against such odds, must continue to decrease,—I say, do they imagine that this is to be the state of things in the future? Matters can continue as they are now going for a time, then cometh—revolution and confiscation,—happy will we be if it be not accompanied by bloodshed and pillage. Such, I repeat, are the lessons of history, and we must heed them if we would not that we or our children should to-morrow suffer the consequence of our to-day's neglect of duty. Ecclesiastical property must pay its just proportionate share of taxation. It asks for the protection of government, and it must pay the expenses of that protection just as all other property does. Privilege must be abolished, and the rule of equal and absolute justice must take its place. It is the work of Freethought to force this upon the attention of governments and peoples until civil, social, and religious rights are secured to all, irrespective of race, religion, sex or position.

The thought of the world is ripening for this grand consummation, and we must do our part in the grand work.

Florence, Iowa.

E. C. WALKER.

Mr. Labouchere declares that he recently went to church, which is hardly credible, and that being there he was oddified by an eccentric exhibition of clerical pronunciation. The well known text, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," was so successfully disguised by a Ritualistic "priest" as to sound something like, "Ho that hath yaws to yaw let him yaw."—[Exchange.]