

three broad at each end and half an inch thick. The material is a light brown sandstone of close texture. Quoting from Mr. Robert Clarke's pamphlet on the "Prehistoric Remains at Cincinnati," I find that Mr. E. G. Squier, a good archaeological authority, described this relic in 1848 as follows: * * * "The figures are cut in low relief (the lines being not more than one-twentieth of an inch in depth) and occupy a rectangular space four inches and two-tenths by two and one-tenth wide. The sides of the stone, it will be observed, are slightly concave. Right lines are drawn across the face, near the ends; at right angles and exterior to these are notches, twenty-five at one end and twenty-four at the other. Extending diagonally inward are fifteen longer lines, eight at one end and seven at the other. The back of the stone has three deep, longitudinal grooves, and several depressions, evidently caused by rubbing—probably produced by sharpening the instruments used in the sculpture. * * * * It will be observed that there are but three scrolls or figures—four of one description and two of each of the others. Probably no serious discussion of the question, whether or not these figures are hieroglyphical, is needed. They more resemble the stalk and flowers of a plant than anything else in nature. What significance, if any, may attach to the peculiar markings or graduations at the ends, it is not undertaken to say. The sum of the products of the longer and shorter lines ($24 \times 7 + 25 \times 8$) is 368, three more than the number of days in the year; from which circumstance the suggestion has been advanced that the tablet had an astronomical origin and constituted some sort of a calendar."

Mr. Squier then goes on to suggest that the tablet was probably only a stamp, such as have been found "in Mexico and in the mounds of the Mississippi" made "of burned clay, the faces of which are covered with figures, fanciful or imitative, all in low relief like the face of a stereotype plate. These were used in impressing ornaments upon the clothes or prepared skins of the people possessing them." Dr. (now Sir) Daniel Wilson in "Pre-historic Man," vol. 1, page 175, after criticising the astronomical and stamp theories, proceeds: "But whatever theory be adopted as to its original object or destination, the series of lines on its two ends have justly attracted attention, for they constitute no part of the device and can scarcely be regarded as an ornamental border. Possibly in them we have a record of certain scales of measurement in use by the mound builders; and if so, the discovery is calculated to add fresh interest to our study of the geometrical structures, which, far more than great mounds, are the true characteristics of that mysterious people."

A recent essayist in the "Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History" for January, 1887, after demonstrating to his own satisfaction the phallic origin and interpretation of the design and the astronomical intention of the lines and spaces, concludes, "Thus we have the exact descriptions of these tablets [the Richardson and the Gest or Cincinnati.] The numbers shown on these are familiar as those used in the measures of the Mound Builder works in which the tablets were found; also as periods of lunar and solar time, and especially lunar time, as marking the natural periods of menstruation, quickening, viability and gestation. The relationship becomes closer when we find that the Gest Tablet, as to its size, has special measures from the same unit or standard with the Gridley stone. They are: Length, 5 inches; least breadth, 2.50 inches; greatest breadth, 3 (2.99) inches, with two chords of 4.50 inches each."

Whatever may have been the purpose of this tablet, if, indeed, it had any beyond caprice or whim on the part of the maker, it is, at all events, a genuine relic. Fortunately the evidence in its favour is too strong to be put aside by even the most iconoclastic.