

the shores of Lake Superior rang with the echoes of the industrious toil wrought by an ancient, but long-extinct population, many centuries must have passed away. Four centuries are indisputably recorded by recent survivors of the forest growing in the trenches dug, and on the mounds raised by these mysterious people." "We are thrown back into dim centuries corresponding to Europe's early mediæval period to which to assign at the very latest those singularly interesting relics of a lost American civilization."

The chapter on the "METALLURGIC ART" is particularly interesting, and at its close we cannot help feeling a strong desire to know more about the ancient miners of Lake Superior. We know of the incipient civilization attained by the Iroquois, and their fate; we see in the grand pine forests of Keweenaw Point a more advanced civilization than the Iroquois ever knew, but without the slightest trace of the people who have left these astonishing remains of primeval art and industry, near the centre of the North American continent.

But if the ancient miners of Lake Superior are mysterious, what shall we say of the mound builders who have left their gigantic memorials scattered in countless thousands over the interior of the American continent. Some of these mounds are of vast dimensions, that of Miamisburg, Ohio, is 68 feet high, and 852 feet in circumference at its base; the truncated pyramid of Cahokia, Illinois, rears its level summit 90 feet, and is 2000 feet in circumference. The exploration of these earth mounds has entirely set at rest doubts respecting their artificial origin; "they are the monumental structures erected to preserve the memory of the honored dead in ages utterly forgotten, and by a race of which they preserve apparently the sole remaining vestiges." Throughout the State of Ohio alone, the mounds or earthworks are estimated at between eleven and twelve thousand. They extend from the great lakes to Mexico, and west of the Mississippi; but we must receive with caution the statement that they have been found in Nebraska territory extending towards the Rocky Mountains; for it has been conclusively proved that a vast number of these supposed mounds in the valley of the Missouri are nothing but *Sand Dunes*.\* The arid and inhospitable character of Nebraska Territory, east of the 98th degree of long., is itself enough to show that it could never have been occupied by a numerous people who practised agriculture, such as would be required by those who erected the large number of the supposed mounds which have been discovered by many passing travellers. The ancient monuments of the Mississippi valley are divided into two classes, enclosures and mounds. An antiquity exceeding one thousand years is ascribed to some of these mysterious and marvellous remains. In some of these strongholds, to which the enclosures belonged, artificial reservoirs of water were formed. The ancient forts in Ohio are of surprising magnitude, walls twenty feet high and extending in the aggregate four miles, are evidences of immense labour and skill. In the Scioto valley the main defences of a stronghold and the uniform octangular outwork embraces an area of 127 acres, even a stream has been turned from its course to admit of the completed circuit of the water. Relics are numerous in the vast enclosures, coiled serpents carved in stone, pottery, carved fragments of ivory, discoidal stones

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