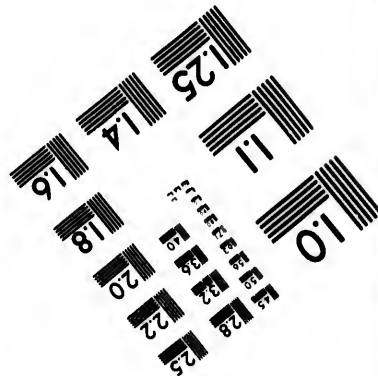
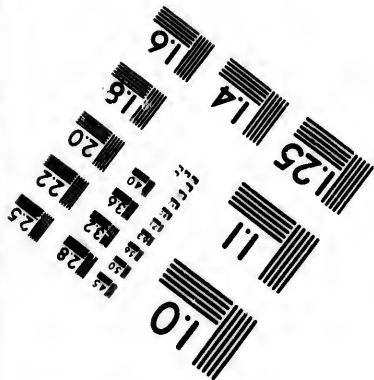
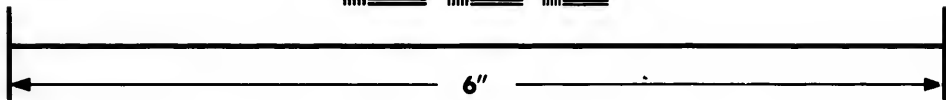
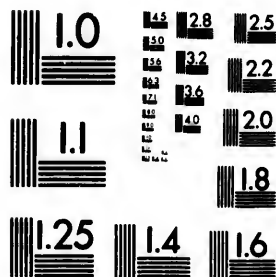


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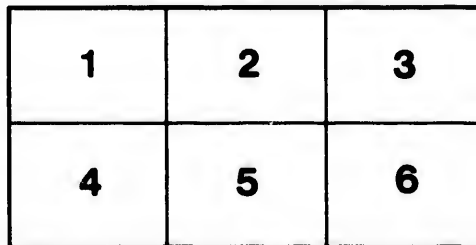
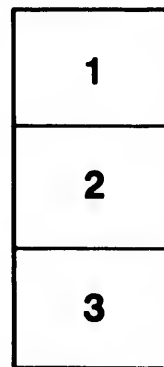
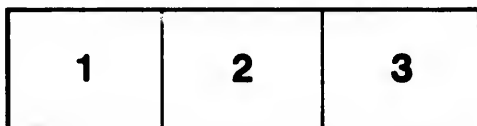
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ARCHÆOLOGIA AMERICANA,

— BY —

STANLEY C. BAGG, F.N.S.,

MEMBER OF THE NUMISMATIC SOCIETIES OF LONDON,
PHILADELPHIA AND MONTREAL;

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
WISCONSIN;

LIBRARIAN OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL,
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ARCHÆOLOGIA AMERICANA.

(Reprinted from the Canadian Patriot.)

To collect in a condensed form the principal facts relative to ancient America, was the object contemplated by the writer. In the numerous volumes written on this very interesting subject, enough appears certain to warrant the statement, that in America are found the remains of Empires whose ending, it would seem, is older than the beginning of the Pyramids of Egypt.

The circular works of the Danes and Saxons so frequently found in England in connection with the Pentagon or Doomring of Denmark, stretching in a continuous line from Brownsville in Pennsylvania, through Wisconsin, Canada, Greenland, and Iceland, to Sweden direct, is strong evidence of the migration of the Danes or Saxons, at some unknown time to this Continent.

Humboldt says that in Canada he had seen lines of defence and entrenchments of extraordinary length, the work of some people belonging to the early ages, and that amidst the extensive plains of Upper Canada, dykes of a considerable length, weapons of brass, and sculptured stones are found, which are the indications that it was formerly inhabited by industrious nations.

In various earth-works of the West, are found the Murex shell—a sea shell from which the ancients

are said to have procured the famous Tyrian dye, used in coloring the royal robes of kings. This shell is known to have been highly esteemed by the Hindoos, and is used by the Brahmins as the musical instrument of their gods; what better evidence is necessary to prove at some unknown period of time the existence of a Hindoo population in this country?

Joseph Merrick, Esq., in 1815, was levelling some ground on Indian Hill, after having conveyed away earth, &c., to some depth, he discovered a black strap, about six inches long, and one and a half broad, about the thickness of a harness trace, having at each end a loop; he cut it open and found four pieces of parchment of a dark yellow hue, having on them quotations from the old Testament written with a pen in Hebrew, plain and legible. The neighbours tore one of the pieces to atoms; the writing on the three remaining pieces were from Exodus, Chapter xiii. verse 11 to 16, inclusive, and Deuteronomy, Chapter vi., from 4 to 9 verse, inclusive, and also Chapter xi, verse 13 to 21 inclusive, to which the reader can refer. These passages unquestionably had been written on these pieces of parchment, before Israel left the land of Syria, more than twenty-five hundred years ago. It is said by Calmet that the above texts are the very passages of Scripture which the Jews used to write on the leaves of their Phylacteries. This intimation of the presence of the Hebrews in America, is too unequivocal to be passed unnoticed.

On the bank of the River Desperes, in Missouri,

was found by an Indian and presented to Governor Clarke, a Roman coin; and many enclosures, similar to the Roman camp described by Josephus, may yet be seen in the Valley of the Mississippi. He represents these camps as being four square by measure, adorned with Towers at equal distances, with gates or places of entrance on every side. At Marietta, in Ohio, may yet be seen the remains of one of these camps, with its elevated squares at each corner, more than one hundred feet square, and nine feet high, and various other earthworks, similar in construction, may be seen north to the lakes, and west to the Mississippi, west of which the Romans may never have held empire.

A farmer of Monte Video, in Brazil, in 1827, in one of his fields discovered a flat stone, upon which, to him, strange and unknown characters were engraved, and beneath the stone he discovered a vault formed by masonry, in which were deposited two ancient swords, a helmet, and shield. This Planter caused the flat stone and deposit to be removed to Monte Video, where in spite of the ravages of more than two thousand years, Greek words were easily made out, which being translated, read as follows:—"During the dominion of Alexander, son of Philip, King of Macedon, in the sixty-third Olympiad, Ptolemæus." On account of the ravages of time it was impossible to decipher the rest; but on the handle of one of the swords was the supposed portrait of Alexander himself. On the helmet there was the sculptured work, representing Achilles dragging Hector around the walls of Troy. The

Ptolemis or Ptolemy may refer to one of Alexander's Generals, sometimes called Ptolemy Lagus or Soter. From this discovery it is evident that the soil of Brazil was formerly broken by an Egyptian more than a thousand years before the discovery by Columbus.

On the rocks of Dighton, in Massachusetts, near the sea, have been discovered Phœnician letters, legibly engraved, a strong evidence of the presence of Phœnicians, or their descendants, on this Continent. The Phœnicians once held dominion on the Island of Malta in the Mediterranean and were in the habit of depositing their dead in caves. Near the junction of the Illinois river with the Mississippi, one of these Phœnician depositories was discovered some years since, it contained the remains of thousands.

The hypothesis of the discovery of the American Continent by the Phœnicians has of late received additional support. Glass beads of accepted Phœnician manufacture have been found in an ancient estuary of the Copper age at Beverly in Canada.

Lexington, Kentucky, stands nearly on the remains of an ancient town, which was of great extent and magnificence, as is amply evident by the wide range of circumvalatory works, and the quantity of ground it once occupied. Connected with the antiquities of this place there was a Catacomb, formed in the limestone rock, about fifteen feet below the surface of the earth; it was discovered in 1775, by some of the first settlers, whose curiosity was excited by something remarkable in the arrangement

of the stones that filled the entrance to the cave; they removed them, and on entering found themselves in a spacious apartment; the sides and extreme end were formed into niches and compartments occupied by mummies, preserved by the arts of embalming, to as great a state of perfection as was known among the ancient Egyptians, eighteen hundred years before the Christian era, in the days of Abraham, when this art was in perfection. Catacombs are numerous all over Egypt, vast excavations under ground, with niches in their sides for their embalmed dead, exactly such as the one here described; a custom so peculiarly characteristic of that people being found here in a state of perfection, not exceeded by the mother country, most evidently leads to the conclusion, that a colony from Egypt inhabited that region of country.

Traits of Egyptian manners were found among many of the nations of South America, and other tokens of the presence of Egyptians are not wanting in North America; as, in the Vale of Mexico, several curious specimens of sculpture have been discovered, strongly resembling the workmanship of the ancient Egyptians. Leather has been found wrapped around mummies, in the Kentucky Caverns, which shews a knowledge of a branch of the arts, in the possession of the people of America, at an era coeval with the Egyptians.

In a cavern on the north shore of the Ohio river, about twenty miles below the junction of the Wabash, the walls of which are smooth, and covered with paintings and sculptures grouped in sections

and clusters, are to be found many striking similitudes to the general forms of sculpture, and painted emblems found in Egypt; the idea of identity of origin becomes almost irresistible; and these facts seem to lead to the conclusion that this cave was once used as a sacred sanctuary, and that at this point a colony of Egyptians at some era here took up their abode.

About fifteen miles from Palanque stand vestiges of the City of Otolum, in North America. The ruins of this ancient stone City are seventy-five miles in circuit, length thirty-two miles, breadth twelve miles, full of palaces, monuments, statues and inscriptions; the ancient gods of the Egyptians, Osiris, Apis, and Isis, are sculptured on the stones of this City. The temple of Copan was five hundred and twenty feet by six hundred and fifty, and is supposed to have been as large as St. Peter's at Rome. This city has been described as the Thebes of America, and travellers have supposed it must have contained a population of 3,000,000.

Medals representing the sun, with all its rays of light, have been found in some of the mounds, made of a very fine clay, and copper medals have been discovered round like the moon in its full, hence it is supposed the primitive inhabitants of America worshipped the Sun and the Moon, like many nations in the earliest ages, soon after the flood.

The horse it is said was not known in America till the Spaniards introduced it from Europe, yet the track of a horse is found on a mountain in Tennessee, in the rock of the enchanted mountain, and

shows that horses were known in America in the earliest ages after the flood.

Captain Dupaix visited Central America in 1805. He supposes the ruins he then found were left before the flood, and Mr. Stephens when in Central America, found masonic obelisks, having on their sides sculptured images and medallion tablets, large altars, ornamented with hieroglyphics, splend temples, adorned with human figures executed in stucco and bas relief, built of hewn stone. The specimens of sculpture equalled any thing he saw in Egypt. The Pyramid of Sholula near Puebla is the largest in the world. It covers forty four acres; on its summit there was a temple, and in the interior has been discovered a vault, roofed with beams of wood, containing skeletons and idols. Its dimensions are immense.

Ancient roads or highways are found in many parts of the West, walled in on both sides for many miles, where the forest trees are growing as abundant, and as large and aged, as in any part of the surrounding woods, and on the before mentioned enchanted mountain, situated a few miles south of Brayston, are found impressed in the surface of the solid rock, a great number of tracks of human beings, bears, turkies, and horses, as above stated, as perfect as they could be made on snow or sand.

A gentlemen near Cincinnatti, in 1826, persevered in digging a well to the depth of eighty feet without finding water, but still persisting, the workmen found themselves obstructed by the stump of a tree three feet in diameter, and two feet high, which had

been cut down with an axe. The blows of the axe were yet visible. The inference is that the tree was undoubtedly Antediluvian, that the river Ohio did not exist anterior to the deluge, inasmuch as the remains of the tree were found firmly rooted in its original position, several feet below the bed of the river;—that America was peopled before the flood as appears from the action of the axe in cutting down the tree; and that the Antediluvian Americans were acquainted with the use and properties of iron, as the rust of the axe was on the top of the stump when discovered. In digging another well at the same place, another stump was found, at ninety-four feet below the surface which had evident marks of the axe, and on its top it seemed as if some iron tool had been consigned by rust. The axe had no doubt been struck into the top of the stump, when the horrors of the deluge first appeared.

Thus in the bosom of the turf-clad mound, in the hidden caverns of the earth, in the remains of the soil, in the customs of nations buried in time, aided by art and science, by the sculptor's chisel and painters pencil, and by other vestiges of the past, we may trace amid the gloom of barbarian rule, the ancient existence of the Hindoo, Saxon, Dane, Hebrew, Roman, Greek, Phœnician, Egyptian, and in fine, the Antediluvian, in this so-called new world.

In conclusion, the antiquities of America extend from the eastern shores of Maine and Massachusetts to the Pacific, and from the great lakes and British dominions to Peru and La Plata; immense forrests grow over the ruins of large cities, and the gigantic

size of the trees prove the great age of the ruins, while the monumental history of Central America tell us that this is not a new world, and we awake with astonishment that in this country there was once a great empire before David reigned over the twelve tribes of Israel, and the stumps of Cincinnati surpass in consequence the magnificent ruins of antiquity, because they are remnants of matter, in form and fashion, such as it was, before the earth perished by water, bearing on their respective tops the indubitable marks of the exertion of man at so remote a period of time.

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