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SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

The Origin of the Mound Builders of North America.

Were They Perchance One of the Lost Tribes of Israel—Some Facts in Support of This Theory.

[Special Washington Letter.]

Where did the Indians come from, and who were the mound builders?

Men and women who read and study the history of the continent have absorbed and originated all sorts of theories concerning the aboriginal inhabitants of the new world.

The bureau of ethnology has worked on this problem for the last 20 years with great energy and earnestness.



FINDING SKELETON OF GIANT.

The work has been thoroughly done, and leaves no room for doubt as to the accuracy of its results. It has utterly exploded old theories as to a more ancient race of superior civilization which was imagined to have been responsible for the creation of the monuments in question. It has been demonstrated that the objects yielded by the tumuli, which are not of unmistakably Indian manufacture, were obtained from the whites.

Maj. Powell, who was for many years in charge of the geological survey, has said that this investigation was as much of a blind study as the original efforts to decipher the inscriptions upon the stone wonders of ancient Egypt.

One of the quiet students of the survey says: "The most interesting works of the mound builders are the so-called effigy mounds, representing birds and many kinds of mammals, which are confined almost wholly to Wisconsin and a small part of Iowa. The whole

ings representing quadrupeds, birds, bird tracks and symbolical or fanciful objects. The floor is spread to a depth of two feet with the bones of fishes and beasts, fragments of pottery, charcoal and ashes. Even more remarkable is the cave near Gunterville, Ala. Evidently it was utilized for many generations as a cemetery, and the number of dead deposited in it must have been very great. Though much of its contents has been hauled away in sacks, for fertilizing land, the floor is yet covered to a depth of four feet with material composed chiefly of fragments of human bones. In Tennessee and Kentucky the flesh of bodies stored in caves centuries ago is sometimes remarkably preserved.

On a farm in Bollinger county, Mo., is an area of considerable extent surrounded by an ancient wall of earth about three feet high in places. Inside of it, formerly, were many remarkable mounds used for burial places by the Indians of prehistoric times, but 40 years of continued cultivation of the soil have nearly leveled them. Plowing over one of the mounds a few years ago the owner struck something, and, on digging further in the earth, discovered two stone coffins each containing a skeleton. In one of the coffins he found a gourd-shaped vessel filled with lead ore, so pure that he afterwards turned it into bullets.

In 1870 people in the neighborhood of a town in Mississippi discovered that the pottery, in which the mounds of that region were unusually rich, had considerable commercial value. The specimens obtained were sold to merchants, who in turn furnished them to museums, scientific institutions and relic hunters.

Reverting to the fact that the mound builders continued their work after Columbus, Vespucci, De Soto, Cortez and Pizarro cursed the ground with their lawless and brutal heels, it must be said that articles of Caucasian manufacture, obtained by barter on the coast or from wrecks, quickly found their way to the interior of the continent, passing from hand to hand in the course of traffic between tribes, or by capture in war. The system of trade which existed anciently among the Indians was surprisingly efficient and satisfactory. Aboriginal drummers actually made their way on foot from the Gulf of Mexico to the headquarters of the Mississippi river. The products of the native mines of copper, flint and mica were distributed in a manner sufficiently business-like to be worthy of a more educated civilization. Dried oysters and other shell fish were shipped inland, just as the same mollusks are sent from the Atlantic coast to the cities of the interior to-day. Thus sea shells are found in the mounds of Illi-

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May Have Been Murdered

T. Riveth, a bachelor, was taken to death on his farm in Becker county eight miles east of Ulen. The circumstances indicate murder and Riveth, was the oldest settler in that part of the county, had marketed wheat at Lake Park, and upon returning home paid his threshing bill next day he was at work plowing and in evening his house and barn destroyed by fire. When the neighbors reached the scene they found Riveth charred body lying in the ash; hay stack that was near the barn horses were still harnessed, and there was no reason for suicide. Neighbors believed that he was murdered and his body and things burned to cover up the crime.

Almost a Miracle.

A wonderful case has been at the Paul city hospital since Oct. 2, at that time Tillie Anderson, a domestic taken to the hospital suffering from what was thought to be typhoid. It turned out to be a very rare disease known as Laundry's paralysis, caused by the absorption of poisonous material taken up by the blood. It was necessary to resort to artificial respiration, which was done by raising arms above the head and lowering them to the side, the same as in drowning. In this manner respiration has been produced for five days and the patient is still alive.

Prison Investigation.

The commission, consisting of Charles E. Flandrau, of St. Paul, and M. Harrison, of Minneapolis, B. F. Farmer, of Spring Valley, appointed by Gov. Clough to investigate the charges preferred against one of the state penitentiary at Stillwater in the governor's office at the capitol, arranged preliminary

The commission organized immediately by selecting Judge Flandrau chairman. Gov. Clough then added them, giving his ideas of the manner in which the work should be carried and impressing upon the commission the importance of a fair, thorough and impartial investigation.

Broke Her Contract.

In response to an advertisement appeared in the Minneapolis paper well dressed and apparently respectable young women, who gave her as Wilson arrived in Duluth to a position as housekeeper for a man named Rowan. It turned out that Rowan was a colored man of poor circumstances living out in the West and the young woman refused to work for him, notwithstanding the fact that Rowan had advanced her money to the police for aid, but they could not find her.

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One of the quiet students of the survey says: "The most interesting works of the mound builders are the so-called effigy mounds, representing birds and many kinds of mammals, which are confined almost wholly to Wisconsin and a small part of Iowa. The whole of the valley of Prairie du Chien township is dotted with these ancient animals in droves, all heading to the southwest like the river. They are enduring evidences of a dense population and long occupancy in past time. Some of the birds have a spread of 250 feet from wing tip to wing tip."

It is a matter of official record that in digging through a mound in Iowa the scientists found the skeleton of a giant, who, judging from actual measurement, must have stood seven feet six inches tall when alive. The bones crumbled to dust when exposed to the air. Around the neck was a collar of bear's teeth, and across the thighs were dozens of small copper beads, which may have once adorned a hunting skirt. The latter were formed by rolling slender wire-like strips of metal into little rings. One skull obtained from a mound in Alabama was completely filled with snail shells.

In another mound in Iowa was found a central chamber containing 11 skeletons, which were arranged in a circle with their backs against the walls. In their midst was a great sea shell, which had been converted into a drinking-cup. Smaller cavities in the same tumulus were filled with a fine copper-colored dust, which, when first uncovered, gave out such a sickening odor that operations had to be suspended for awhile. The dust was supposed to be the ashes from burned flesh—perhaps that of the individuals in the central chamber. Many tribes of Indians in ancient times made a practice of removing the flesh from the bones of the dead.

But all of these studies and discoveries have not given us anything really historical concerning the people who did these things. The officials of the geological survey, of the Smithsonian Institution, the National museum, and other centers of science and philosophy at the national capital, all agree that the question as to whence the Indians originally came is still in dispute, and likely to remain so. There is no truth in the attractive notion that once a mighty nation occupied the valley of the Mississippi, with its frontier settlements resting on the lake shores and gulf coast, nestling in the valleys of the Appalachian range and skirting the broad plains of the west—a nation

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That the mound builders were great smokers is proved by the large number of pipes found in their mounds and graves. So numerous are these and so widely distributed that pipemaking and pipesmoking may be considered as a marked characteristic of that ancient people. This will serve in a way as supplementary evidence that they were Indians; for the Indian is par excellence the man who smokes, and the pipe is essential to his happiness.

The correspondent is neither a scientist nor a philosopher, and yet may make a suggestion. Maybe nobody will



BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW.

ever be able to correctly conjecture, much less prove, where the mound builders came from, nor who they were. But is it not a singular fact that they builded mounds just as the ancient Egyptians builded pyramids? Has anyone ever investigated the similarity of the methods of the two races? May not these mound builders have been descended from or related to the Egyptians?

What became of the lost tribes of Israel, after they had learned to build pyramids, making bricks without straw?

The mound builders, by their work,

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The work on the Capitol.

A crew of men has already begun to work at the new capitol site, using derricks and making preparations for building the sheds in which dressing of Georgia marble will be carried on during the winter months. The sheds will be erected at once on the saws, planers and other machinery will arrive in a few weeks. Conditions will be made with the mains as it is necessary to keep a stream of water running on the site to keep them cool, as they cut the marble. By the first of the month the grounds will present a very airy appearance.

Perhaps.

The application of the Duluth Range road for permission to increase the capital stock of the road from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000 is considered an indication that the company is contemplating some extensive improvements and that the road will probably be completed to the Rainy lake count another year.

News in Brief.

John A. Willard, of Mankato, made a voluntary assignment.

Frank Schneider made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. He has been jilted by a young woman.

While John Lindstrom, of Fairview, was taking his threshing outfit to the mill the wind blew his coat tails into the gears. He was drawn between the heavy cog wheels, and his shirt was crushed and lacerated. He had to be rescued and taken to the hospital.

The receipts of the state treasury for the month of October were \$45,261.54.

The Fairview sanitarium in Duluth was destroyed by fire, the patients having a narrow escape.

Charles Coleman was found prostrated beside the road, unable to get up. He had been helped by two other foot travelers who came by and he asked them to help him build a fire to keep from freezing, but they swore at him and left him to perish.

The Winona saw mills cut 124,000 feet of lumber during the past month.



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But all of these studies and discoveries have not given us anything really historical concerning the people who did these things. The officials of the geological survey, of the Smithsonian Institution, the National museum, and other centers of science and philosophy at the national capital, all agree that the question as to whence the Indians originally came is still in dispute, and likely to remain so. There is no truth in the attractive notion that once a mighty nation occupied the valley of the Mississippi, with its frontier settlements resting on the lake shores and gulf coast, nestling in the valleys of the Appalachian range and skirting the broad plains of the west—a nation with its system of government and religion, which has disappeared, leaving behind it no evidence of its glory, power or extent, save the mounds and what they contain.

One thing is certain, and that is that the mound builders continued their work for some time after the European discoverers and adventurers came to the shores of this continent and penetrated its terra incognita. It is officially recorded that agents of the bureau of ethnology have explored and made excavations in more than 2,000 of these mounds. Among the objects found in them were pearls in great numbers and some of very large size, engraved shells, bracelets of drawn wire, silver brooches, pins, needles, a silver plate with the coat of arms of Spain, a gun barrel, a Roman Catholic medal, a copper kettle and a fur-covered, brass-nailed trunk. Of course, many of these articles were obtained from the whites. They demonstrate that mound building and burial in mounds went on for some time after the whites landed on the shores of America. In fact, agents have seen such mounds in process of construction by Indians.

The scientific discovery and disclosures of ancient Troy developed no things more wonderful than these scientific explorers of the mounds; although the developments at Troy have been of more historic value, because they verify well-authenticated historic data. But some very interesting material for historic development has been found in caves. Tracing the Mississippi river, six miles south of New Albin, is a great cavity in the vertical face of the sandstone bluff, 50 feet long and 12 feet high. The walls and ceilings are literally covered with rude etch-



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The mound builders, by their work, manifestly were more like the pyramid makers of Egypt than like any other people. When we wonder why pyramids were built, should we not at the same time ask why the mounds were built, and whether or not they were built upon the same scientific, superstitions or religious theory, and for a similar purpose? SMITH D. FRY.

And He Couldn't Have Both.

Stokeleigh—Why don't you get married, old man?

Brokeleigh—Debarred by custom.

Stokeleigh—How so?

Brokeleigh—Well, while it is permissible for me to appear in public without a wife, it is not permissible for me to do so without clothes.—Brooklyn Life.

In the Sunday School.

Teacher—Those who live good and virtuous lives find their reward in Heaven. What happens to those who lead wicked lives?

"They have to pay papa to defend them in the courts," replied a little boy whose father is one of the most prominent lawyers of New York.—N. Y. World.

A Valuable Indorsement.

"Isn't the butter rather strong today, Mrs. Small?" asked the star boarder.

"It may be, Mr. Hunker," was the landlady's suave reply, "but if it is, that fact only establishes its genuineness. Imitation butter never gets strong."—Town Topics.

The Sponge.

"Let's buy the drinks—alphabetically!" said Zigzag to a crowd of congenial spirits.—N. Y. World.

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Swan Olander, a painter, fell from the light shaft in the First National bank building at Duluth and was instantly killed. He was working on a ladder across the top of the shaft when the ladder tipped and he fell to the first floor. Nearly every bone in his body was broken.

The 4-year-old child of a farmer near Hatfield was burned to death as a result of its clothing catching fire while playing near a burning structure.

Nels O. Martell was instantly killed at Red Wing by being crushed between the wheels of a steam engine and separator while he was coupling.

Fire destroyed the residence of John Calahan, at Long Prairie, and an blind boy was burned to death. His parents were away and the boy was left at home, as he had been there many times before.

Charles Howard, a painter employed in painting the Robert street bridge in St. Paul, fell from a scaffold into the river, a distance of 50 feet. He fell in shallow water, which broke his force of the fall and saved his life. He sustained a painful cut in the forehead.

Adam Knapp, a farmer, was killed by being stabbed by Michael Zapp, a bricklayer, as the culmination of a feud.

A. M. Muller has sold the Imperial theater at Duluth to E. Z. Willis.

H. T. Scott, of Emerado, has secured the mail contract on the Fossil midji route.

Judge Elliott, of Minneapolis, has decided that the law permitting voluntary associations to file for voluntary insolvency, and give officers of the association charge of affairs after such insolvency, is unconstitutional.