

ing to the different gasometers or other vessels between which the transfer is to be made; and by means of the part EC the gas be made to pass in either direction at pleasure.

I ought to remark before closing, that previous to my application to Messrs. Brown & Francis, they had manufactured several air pumps of this description, with the exception of the tube G, which was added at my suggestion; and which adapts it in a peculiar manner for use in a chemical laboratory.

Messrs. Brown & Francis also manufacture a much smaller air pump, with a single barrel of the same construction.

Am. Jour. of Science Arts. Apr. 1838.

ART. VIII.—*Notes respecting certain Indian Mounds and Earthworks, in the form of Animal Effigies, chiefly in the Wisconsin Territory, U. S.;* by RICHARD C. TAYLOR, Esq.

DURING the past year, whilst traversing, in the society of some scientific friends, that portion of Wisconsin Territory which is bounded by Illinois to the south, and the beautiful Wisconsin River to the north, we frequently found our attention attracted by the singularly formed Indian mounds, of which the elevated prairies, as well as the rich valleys and the borders of the lakes and rivers of this region, afford such numerous specimens.

The existence of abundant traces, apparently monumental, of an ancient and now probably extinct nation, within the country under our present recognizance, was known long ago to its early explorers, of which the French were doubtless the first, in the seventeenth century, and has been mentioned by some of the travellers who have subsequently written concerning this country. But I was unprepared to discover in the forms of these remains, whose origin is so obscure, other than the usual simple tumuli; such as abound on the borders of the Ohio, and throughout the great valley of the Mississippi, and upon the green plains and rich bottoms of the Missouri; which tumuli do closely resemble those which are so profusely scattered over the plains of Europe, and are especially abundant on the chalky downs of England.

Rumors of the remains of an ancient city, discovered within the past year, in the eastern part of this territory, wherein the ground plans of supposed buildings and fortifications may still be

traced, had been lately circulating in the United States, and contributed to lead our attention towards those singular memorials which daily presented themselves on the route through this interesting region. Respecting the so called city of Aztalan,* I was prevented, unfortunately, when within a day's journey, from reaching its site; and regret my inability to speak from personal knowledge on this subject. Information of a more detailed and scientific character than we now possess is much needed.

As relates to a great number of other positions, it was discovered that the configurations of the earthworks, or mounds as they are usually termed, which at first sight appeared decidedly to resemble the sites, or ground plan, and foundation lines of former buildings, were really designed as rude representations and outlines of certain animals, and even of the human figure; in addition to those tumuli which had been constructed in the usual circular, quadrangular, and oblong shapes.

The circular tumuli of the Wisconsin prairies, are commonly about fifty feet in diameter, and are not elevated, in general, more than ten or fifteen feet above the surrounding level; but often not half so much.

Those in the forms of parallelograms are seldom less than a hundred feet long, and are occasionally seen much longer, as in the example figured, [pl. II. fig. 3,] which is six hundred feet in length. Perhaps in this instance it was thrown up as a defensive earthwork, as its situation seems to indicate.

Above the junction of the Des Moines River with the Mississippi, in Missouri, in the region locally known as "Black Hawk's Country," we examined a long range of the circular tumuli. These were all of the common size, and some of them contained recent graves of deceased Indians, as was afterwards observed in many other localities. Thus, in the present day, the burial place of the Sauks and Fox, the Winnebago, and other tribes, is very commonly chosen upon the site of the more ancient monuments; the memorials of a people that existed in unknown times.

It is scarcely necessary here to include within our notice those mounds of much larger dimensions, existing on the borders of the Ohio and Mississippi, to the south and east. On the former

* The Mexicans have a tradition that they originally came from the north, from a country called Aztalan.

river one mound is seventy feet high, and thirty or forty rods in circumference. Even within the limits of the rapidly rising city of St. Louis, are some of great magnitude. On the American bottom, at the village of Cahokia, (Illinois,) it is stated by a contributor to a Western periodical, that more than two hundred mounds are visible from one spot; the largest being 2400 feet in circumference, and 90 feet in height; in figure approaching to a parallelogram. In the Cherokee country an earthwork has been described, as 75 feet high and 1114 feet round.

The earthworks which have been constructed in the shapes of animals, abound in the Iowa district of Wisconsin. They occur, mixed with the other varieties, in great numbers, around the high lands which skirt the "Four Lakes," forming a species of *alto relievo*, of gigantic proportions. This district appears to have been originally much resorted to by the early tribes, whose relics we here behold, mixed with those of the modern Winnebagos. At one spot alone, probably, at least one hundred tumuli may be counted. The Indian path, along which we passed, has, for near half a mile in length, a series of these, mixed with circular mounds, in tiers several deep, on both sides; forming a cemetery in magnitude of itself sufficient, one would imagine, for the chiefs and warriors, and their descendants, of a whole tribe, if such was the original design of these earthworks. On the summits of some might be seen the recent graves, protected by pallisados, of the last Indian possessors of the soil.

The site of the singular group of mounds exhibited in our figure, [pl. i. fig. 1,] is about eighteen miles west of the Four Lakes, and seven miles east of the two remarkable natural hills called the Blue mounds. The area comprehended in the drawing is about two thousand three hundred feet in length. The figures are traced from survey, and their dimensions and the intermediate spaces, were ascertained by admeasurements. In this group there are seen the effigies of at least six quadrupeds; six mounds in parallelograms; one circular tumulus; one human figure, and one circle or ring which may have been formed by the Indians in their dances, whether peaceful or warlike, or may have been occupied for some such purpose, in by-gone times, as the torturing and destroying their prisoners. The great Indian trail, or war-path, which leads from Lake Michigan, near Milwaukee, to the Mississippi above Prairie du Chien, passes along the edge

of this chain of earthworks, and is now for many miles adopted as the route of the military road to the latter fort. We pursued this route for a great distance along the dividing ridge between the northern and southern waters; and we continually saw memorials of the character above described, along its borders.

What animals are represented by these rude monuments of earth, now covered with the rank prairie grass, is not made altogether apparent by their designers. If of the horse, the design is somewhat doubtful. We were rather inclined, however imperfect the representation, to attribute the intention of the constructors to be that of exhibiting the figure of the Buffalo; an animal which had here the finest pasturage, and an almost boundless range, within one of the most ample hunting grounds, and were exceedingly numerous at the time of the first exploration of the country by the French. It is nevertheless to be admitted, that the hump, a remarkable characteristic of the Buffalo, which it would seem unlikely to have been omitted in the representations of that animal, is never seen in these figures, which are distributed over the surface of so many hundred square miles of this country.

The respective dimensions of these animal effigies in our ground plan, are 90, 100, 102, 103, 120, and 126 feet in length; all of them apparently represent the same description of animal. Figures having precisely the same proportions in their outlines, may be seen at very short intervals throughout the Territory of Wisconsin, being generally from 90 to 120 feet, and extending to 150 feet long. This form, although the most prevalent, is by no means the only one, as we shall proceed to show.

In the midst of this group, represented by our sketch, and forming a very important portion of it, we have now to notice the representation of a human figure, lying in an east and west direction; the head towards the west, and the arms and legs extended. Its length is one hundred and twenty five feet, and it is one hundred and forty feet from the extremity of one arm to that of the other. The body or trunk is thirty feet in breadth, the head twenty-five feet, and its elevation above the general surface of the prairie, is about six feet. Its configuration is so distinct, that there can be no possibility of a mistake in assigning it to the human figure.

There is nothing remarkable about the oblong mounds. The circular tumulus in the centre is the highest, and overlooks the whole group. Whether all or any of these earthworks contain bones, we had no opportunity of determining. They probably all do.

The site of this interesting series is an elevated open prairie, on the dividing ridge between the waters of the Wisconsin and Rock rivers. These monuments are covered with the same green carpet of prairie grass, intermixed with bright and brilliant flowers, as the prairie itself. There is an intervening space near the centre of the group, now overgrown with bushes, which probably conceal some unnoticed mounds. The figures marked on these and the other animal outlines in our drawings, indicate their dimensions in feet.

We twice visited these singular specimens of Indian antiquity, and consequently can speak with greater confidence as to the general accuracy of the sketch accompanying this article.

Half a mile westward of this remarkable group, and on the same elevated prairie, occurs a solitary mound, about ninety feet in length, representing an animal in all respects like those we have described, but lying with the head towards the southwest. [Pl. II. fig. 2.]

Along the space of twenty miles from this position, extending to the Four Lakes eastward, similar monuments, intermixed with plain tumuli, are seen at almost every mile, in the lowest situations as well as crowning the highest swells of the prairies; and they are still more numerous all around those beautiful but almost unknown lakes. It would be a ceaseless repetition of similar forms were we to figure many of these, but the outlines of a few of the most characteristic are introduced in the plate. Had time and circumstances permitted a more leisurely investigation and survey of some of the groups of this region, there is little doubt but many drawings of a highly interesting character could have been constructed in addition to those which illustrate this communication.

Fig. 3, Pl. II. An effigy ninety feet long, in form resembling the animal outlines previously described, is placed nearly at the foot and at the point of a remarkable, picturesque, perpendicular bluff, of coarse, friable sandstone, fronting a rich meadow, the favorite resort, no doubt, of numerous buffalos in olden times. In

front of this bluff, and enclosing the mound or effigy, is a long earthwork in an exact straight line, about two hundred yards in length, having an opening in the centre opposite to the animal. The position of this earthwork indicates its having been designed for the purposes of defence or fortification against an enemy; perhaps as an outwork to the strong hold in the rear, formed by the bluff itself. The great Indian road to which we have already referred, skirts along the outer or southern side of this embankment.

Fig. 4, Pl. II. This sketch is drawn from the admeasurement of a couple of animal-shaped mounds, between which passes the same Indian path, at the distance of six miles west of the Four Lakes. These figures are selected to shew that one, if not both of them, represented a different species of animal to those we have traced in the preceding outlines. In one instance only they were depicted with the appendage of a tail; the others were tailless; and whether in the present case this deviation from the usual configuration resulted from the caprice of the Indian artists, or really depicted some beast more favored by nature than his contemporaries, it is not easy at this period to decide. They are respectively one hundred and twenty and one hundred and two feet long, and perhaps may have been intended to represent foxes.

Fig. 5. Beyond the Wisconsin Territory, on the north side of the river of that name, in the region still held by the Winnebagoes, are innumerable mounds, both of the circular and most of the other forms we have figured. At one position, however, near the river, and not far from English prairie, a group of six of these appear to represent birds, probably the eagle, or perhaps the crane, which was the ancient badge of the chiefs of a branch of the once powerful tribe of Chippewas.* This sketch was communicated to the writer by the person who took the original admeasurements. The scale of these is about the same as the preceding.

Pl. I, Fig. 2 is a tracing from a sketch drawn to a larger scale, of a bird-shaped mound, in the same region; which sketch was furnished me by an intelligent individual, but of course I am unable to vouch for its accuracy. Possibly the figures which elsewhere I had noticed as possessing the general form of the

* Col. McKenney's History of the Indian Nations.

letter T, might on further inspection have been found to approach to the bird form also.

Forms supposed to represent turtles have also been seen in more than one situation, constructed on an equally large scale. Of this class I cannot speak with sufficient certainty from personal observation. We know that there existed the "Turtle Tribe" of Indians, which had that animal for its badge. The "Walking Turtle" family, according to McKenney, was one of the highest distinction in the Winnebago tribe.

To the above notices may be added some memoranda of certain other points where I observed, or have knowledge of the existence of tumuli or mounds in the shape of animals in this western region.

At the great savanna or prairie on the south bank of the Wisconsin river, called English prairie, are earthworks having the circular, the oblong, and the usual animal forms, and also some which bear resemblance to the Roman letter T, as shown in Pl. II. Fig. 1.

Animal effigies occur fifteen miles to the southwest of the last mentioned locality, along the course of an ancient trail, and also of the present military road to Prairie du Chien from Fort Winnebago. Numerous others may be recognized between these and the Mississippi.

In the vicinity of the remarkable hills called the Blue Mounds, they occur abundantly. These hills were, until very lately, a great resort of the Indian inhabitants; as their existing paths, converging hither in singularly straight lines from every point of the compass, amply testify.

In the centre of the territory, at sites which it would be tedious to enumerate, we repeatedly passed by similar mounds, almost invariably contiguous to Indian paths, whose deeply-worn, but narrow tracks, attest their extreme antiquity and long use.

Between the interesting limestone hill, styled Sinsinnawa Mound, and the town of Galena, these animal representations are seldom out of sight, and are accompanied by earthworks of simpler forms. They prevail equally in the low meadow sites, as upon the higher prairie ridges.

Elevated circular tumuli rise from the flats on the margin of the Mississippi, at the old French village or trading station of Prairie du Chien.

All along the borders of the beautiful Wisconsin river, extending from its mouth to the Winnebago Portage, similar monuments are traceable on the high and dry lands. Occasionally they occur in groups and chains, and not solitarily, and are of various fashions. On the shores of Lac de Bœuf and Lac Apucaway, wherever the land is dry and sufficiently elevated, one may observe, even from the water, a vast number of tumuli. Upon the summits of some of these may from time to time be recognized the modern grave of some Winnebago or Menominie chief, strongly protected by pickets. The margins of the Fox river are remarkable for the numerous Indian remains of this description. Colonel Petitval, of the U. S. Topographical department, who was engaged during the last summer in a survey of this river, had the kindness, at my request, to give some attention to these mounds. He describes an immense assemblage of them, at a point on the river, called the Red Bank, extending far into the interior, both north and south, for an undetermined distance. Twelve of the mounds at this place were opened under his direction, among which was an animal mound one hundred and fifty feet long. All of them contained human bones in a very decomposed state.

One of the most extensive and interesting collections of these monumental structures, exists near the eastern shore of Winnebago lake, within the reservation made to the Stockbridge and Brotherton, commonly called the New York Indians. I am indebted to Dr. Lyman Foote, of Fort Winnebago, for information on this and some other localities of Indian monuments.

At a place named Crawfordsville, on the Fox river, a group of ancient mounds has recently been announced in the western papers. These structures are described as being from three to seventeen rods (two hundred and eighty feet) in length; generally about four feet high, and they are stated to resemble "lizards, alligators, and flying dragons." They here all point in the same general direction, but are not precisely parallel. Among them there is one very large mound, which overlooks all the rest.

A writer in the United States Gazette, during a late visit to Wisconsin, observed numerous mounds and large embankments, spread over a space of thirty miles around the site of "the ancient city." Some of them were designed, he states, to resemble "lizards, turtles, buffalos, and even human forms." The present wandering tribes of Indians are "entirely unable to give any ac-

count of these remains, or to furnish the slightest tradition respecting the ancient possessors of the soil."

Having disposed of as much of the details in my possession, as appear necessary in relation to the localities of animal shaped earthworks, I have little to add concerning the mounds and Indian antiquities of other parts of this continent. Ample details respecting a great many of them may be found in well known works on these subjects, such as that of Dr. McCulloch,* and the *Archæologia Americana*.

From these and other authorities it does appear, that the forms of these mounds elsewhere are materially different to those I have been describing in Wisconsin and to the north of it.

The animal form does not prevail in the Indian monuments within the valley of the Ohio. No allusion is made by Colonel Long, in the narrative to his second expedition, to any but the ordinary circular tumuli, in the relative positions of which the editor observes, "we could discover no order or plan." On the banks of the Miami river, a group of one elliptical and four circular mounds is described, and figured in plate 2, of the narrative.

On the Fox river, of the Illinois, Colonel Long saw many mounds, counting twenty seven at one spot, arranged with a certain degree of regularity, "varying from one to four and a half feet in height, and from fifteen to twenty five feet in length. Their breadth is not proportionate to their length, as it seldom exceeds from six to eight feet;" other mounds are described of an oval form.

The square and pyramidal mounds occur most frequently in the south; and Dr. McCulloch, who is good authority on the subject of Indian antiquities, observes, "that there seems to be a material difference in the construction and position of the mounds in Georgia and Florida, from those of Ohio, Kentucky, &c.†

Tumuli, in the form of truncated pyramids, also occur in the south. Dr. Kain has described a group of six possessing this form in East Tennessee. Their proportions are ten feet in height, by thirty or forty paces in diameter, in the base; the whole group being enclosed by a ditch.

Mounds, having an exact rectangular form, are described by travellers as existing in Tennessee.

* *Researches, Philosophical and Antiquarian, concerning the Aboriginal History of America*, by I. H. McCulloch, M. D.

† McCulloch's *Researches*, p. 503.

Mr. Bringier, describing the Indian mounds in the region of the Mississippi, states, that from Red river to St. Louis, a distance of five hundred miles, and in breadth eighty to two hundred miles, mounds constantly occur, and for the most part are symmetrically arranged, and contain human bones and other traces of man. This writer suggests, that they may be the ruins of ancient dwellings, constructed, on the old Mexican plan, of large bricks, and were covered with earth, which, mouldering down, left mounds in such abundance that the traveller is never out of sight of them. What an immense population, he observes, must have occupied these dwellings, which cover so large a portion of the surface of this region.*

That some of the earthworks in the southern part of this continent are attributable to such an origin, appears to be the opinion of other investigators. Professor Rafinesque, on the authority of M. Rhea, states, that in an ancient walled town near Columbia, in Tennessee, are "the ruins of many houses of various sizes, from ten to thirty feet in diameter, all of circular form."

The conical form is the most prevalent in Ohio. Mr. Atwater has described many of these, and Dr. Drake, among others, has given the details of four large elliptical mounds within the limits of the city of Cincinnati.

It will be seen by a glance at our diagrams, that no precise position, with regard to points of the compass, determined the construction of the Wisconsin mounds; and that in one case a single member of a group of animals has been placed at right angles to the rest. The choice, in selecting the sites of these memorials of ancient days, appears to have been influenced mainly by the contiguity to the lakes and principal rivers, and to those great lines of interior communication which from an unknown period traversed this fine country. By this arrangement the greatest publicity was given to the burial places of the distinguished dead; to the simple yet permanent monuments erected to commemorate their fame and rank, and perhaps with the design to perpetuate the honor, and to flatter the vanity of some of the many tribes and branches into which this great Indian family appears, from remote times, to have been subdivided.

* See this Journal, Vol. III, p. 37.

Learned archæologists have speculated as to what nation, in far distant times, constructed the ordinary tumuli of circular form, so abundant in the great Mississippi valley. They have not yet, I believe, commenced to descant on the origin of those other configurations, the recent examination of which has given rise to the present article. From that highly important contribution to North American early history, the "*Antiquitates Americanæ*," lately edited by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen, little or no knowledge can be acquired respecting the mounds of North America; and the communication in the same work from the Rhode Island Historical Society, refers, for the most part, merely to the chiseled figures and hieroglyphics on the rocks of Rhode Island.

There are few, if any, authentic sources at hand, from whence to draw information, and it is no doubt quite unsafe to rely upon the accuracy of Indian traditions concerning these mounds, especially as the last occupiers of the soil were but comparatively in recent possession. Successive tribes have occupied, by turns, the region of country where these apparent animal and human effigies abound. The Winnebago Indians, a branch of the great Dahcotah or Sioux family, have held possession of that part of the Wisconsin country which lies immediately south of the Wisconsin river, and east of the Mississippi, only from sixty to eighty years. Previously to this time the district was in the hands of the Sauks and Fox Indians, a branch of the Chippewas, who dug and smelted the lead ore, but were driven out by the Winnebagos. Neither of these tribes now erect permanent monuments of this character, to the memory of their dead. We have seen them, it is true, in numerous places, excavate graves, and deposit the remains of the deceased on the summits of the ancient circular tumuli, which they appear to conceive were constructed for such purposes. Some of these modern burial places are accompanied by rude memorials, denoting the tribe and rank, and sometimes by hieroglyphics, in red paint, even recording the principal achievements of distinguished individuals.

But to a far different race, assuredly, and to a far distant period, must we look when seeking to trace the authors of these singular mounds, and the earthworks of such various forms, which are spread over the North American continent, from Lake Superior to Mexico. The degenerate Menominees, and the slothful

Winnebagos, are retiring before the power and the intelligence of the white man of the old world, as the Sauks and Fox Indians had previously retreated from the Winnebagos, and at a still earlier period, the Illinois Indians were nearly exterminated by the Sauks and Foxes.* But who were they who have left almost imperishable memorials on the soil, attesting the superiority of their race? Nation and tribe and family succeed each other, and for a while occupy the land. They vanish in succession, and leave few or no traces. Yet of this unknown people, thousands and tens of thousands of monuments remain, which will scarcely be obliterated so long as the earth retains its present form.

The result of a recent examination, by a friend of the writer, of the interior of many of the Fox river mounds, shews satisfactorily that the animal shaped earthworks contain human bones equally with the round tumuli. These bones were found in a very brittle and decomposed state, having roots and fibres growing through them, and were distributed, commonly, through every part of the mounds. These researches also threw some light on the mode adopted in the construction of these monuments; for it became evident that the bones or bodies of the deceased were originally laid upon the surface of the ground, and the earth was then heaped upon them. No appearances occur of graves being dug beneath the surface, in the first instance.† Upon the summits of many of the original tumuli it is evident that the remains of other deceased persons have been subsequently placed; and a new heaping up of soil thereon contributed to augment its former height. Finally, the wandering Menominee or Winnebago, the last Indian occupant of the prairie, excavates a grave upon the summit, places the body therein, in a sitting or reclining position, and strongly defends it with pickets.

That the more ancient form of burial upon the surface, and of accumulating the soil over the remains of the dead, was not universal among the Indian tribes of North America, appears from the examination of M. Rhea‡ of some antiquities in Tennessee,

* McKenney's History of the Indian Tribes.

† One of the animal monuments lately opened by Col. Petitval near the Red Bank, in the vicinity of Fox river, was one hundred and fifty feet long. The excavation was carried along the entire length, that is, from one extremity to the other, and bones were found abundantly. The number of individuals buried in some of these earthworks must have been very great. Perhaps they each formed the cemetery of a family in those cases.

‡ Made public by Prof. Rafinesque in 1832.

where, within the ruins of an ancient town or village, fortified with walls, "graves are found in abundance, from one to three feet in depth, containing human bones. The bodies seem generally to have been buried in a sitting posture, with flat stones placed around and over them." I observed a grave or sepulchre of this kind on the summit of the natural hill, of limestone, called Sinsinnawa mound, a few miles north of Galena.

Whilst endeavoring to ascertain the origin of the animal forms, adopted in the Wisconsin territory for monumental purposes, the writer became early aware of the embarrassments attendant on all researches in Indian archæology. It has been suggested, that they might be designed merely to record the achievements of certain chiefs in hunting. That they were sepulchral, and enclosed the remains of human beings, has been proved by the recent examination of many earthworks which have the peculiar forms noticed in the preceding pages.

Concerning these ancient memorials of a by-gone people, viewing them as commemorative of the dead, it has occurred to me that they may have served in some way to designate the respective tribes or branches to which the deceased, in whose honor the structures were reared, belonged. Even at the present day it is an undisputed fact, I believe, that certain, perhaps most, Indian families and even tribes or branches, are distinguished from each other by badges indicating particular animals, or objects; or by devices symbolical of some memorable national event or peculiarity. In the same mode, and for the same purposes, many individuals also, among the more remarkable of their warriors, assumed similar devices; commemorative of personal prowess, of success in the chase or in war; and were further distinguished among their friends and adherents, by titles equally characteristic. Thus have we seen, even within the space of a few months from the time of writing this article, the survivors of an Indian chief recording at the head of his grave, by some rude hieroglyphics, the tribe and attributes of the deceased. And this is Indian heraldry: as useful, as commemorative, as inspiring to the red warrior and his race, as that when in the days of the crusades, the banner and the pennon, the device and the motto, the crest, the shield and the war cry, exercised their potent influence on European chivalry.

In all times have nations adopted and men arranged themselves under badges and symbols, to which custom and long cherished associations endeared them. Yet were they of no higher import

than those of the North American Indian. In the earliest periods men rallied around the sacred person of the standard bearer, with equal self-devotion, and perished in its defence with as much heroism, as after generations have perilled life to guard the consecrated banner, or in our day have died to maintain the glory of a national flag. So far back, even, as the time of Moses, standards were employed to distinguish the different tribes of the children of Israel. There was an assigned place to each banner in the order of the march of the entire host; and all men were directed "to pitch their tents by their own standards, every one after their families, according to the houses of their fathers."

From that time to the present, in nearly all stages of society, may be traced the existence of symbols which were adopted for purposes of a like kind; certain natural objects being commonly selected to designate particular races, nations, or tribes. Among many of such nations, these badges were emblazoned on their military standards, and depicted on their commercial flags; they were sculptured upon their monuments, portrayed upon their escutcheons, incorporated with their architecture, inscribed upon their seals, and impressed upon their coinage. We are informed that the kings of the Medes bore golden eagles upon their shields; that the Greeks, the Trojans, and other warlike nations, had devices painted or sculptured upon their shields and helmets;* and that the ancient Germans bore standards before them in battle.†

The Roman legions planted the imperial standard over a large portion of the then known world. By turns, the shores of Albion have been invaded by the Roman eagle, the Danish raven, the white horse of Saxony, and the Norman lion.

And then, when the followers of the cross led on their marshalled thousands to war against the crescent, what hosts of devices, cognizances, achievements, and symbols, were emblazoned on banner, crest, and shield;—devices derived alike from natural and from imaginary objects, and borne in commemoration of noble

* "*Mutemus clypeos, Danaumque insignia nobis
Amptemus:—sic fatus, deinde comantem
Androgei galeam, clypeique insigne decorum,
Induitur.*"

† Egyptians, Persians, Hebrews, Assyrians, and Greeks, all carried ensigns of different figures in their armies. Among the most celebrated standards was the black crowned eagle of Attila, king of the Huns. It was called *Astur*, and supposed to be the same as the *Schongar* of the Tartars. We might also mention the renowned *Gonfalon* and the sacred *Oriflamme*.

deeds, and indicating rank, and honor, and high resolve. Under the red cross of St. George, the lily of France, and a multitude of other standards, the leaders of the soldiers of Christendom were individually distinguished by their own proper heraldic bearings.

That spirit which the olden time originated, and which was so strikingly displayed by the chivalry of the middle ages, has, it is true, been modified; and as regards individuals, has been almost obliterated under the changed aspect of the civilized world. But with regard, perhaps, to all existing nations, these symbols are yet associated with the spirit of patriotism, with national honor, or with deeply cherished remembrances of ancient grandeur. The crescent of the Ottoman empire still shines in the East; the fleur-de-lis of France, originating at least as early as the fifth century, is still her honored emblem; the lion of England, that for "a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze," yet remains a cherished symbol; and, although arising in later times, the eagle of America is no less an object of national pride and endearment.

The foregoing remarks arise out of the obvious similarity of method by which, in all times and in all countries, men, whether barbarous or civilized, have found it convenient to distinguish and arrange themselves. If the untutored Indians have adopted, as the badge of their nation, their race, or their kindred, some simple object in nature, so also have the more refined of the old world constantly pursued the same mode; and doubtless, one common motive led the people of Scotland to select the thistle, those of Wales the leek, of Ireland the shamrock, and of England the oak, for their national emblems; with each and all of which many fond recollections are associated. Thus also did the white and red roses of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, designate their leaders and unite their followers; and the same feeling which gave rise to the local badges of the numerous Scottish clans,* may be traced among the North American tribes, and in like manner, suggested the insignia of numberless orders and associations in the civilized world. If the mail-clad knight of old surmounted his helm with appropriate symbols of courage in the field, of devotion to the true faith, or of constancy to his ladye love, so also does the red warrior assume the attributes of fierce-

* The institution of clans among the North American Indians, appears to have been general. *Archæol. Am.* Vol. II.

ness, of strength, revenge, or cunning—qualities which rank among the highest in his esteem—in the trophies of the eagle, the bear, the serpent, or the fox. If among the boldest of knights and kings, Europe had her Cœur de Leon, so have the chiefs of our Indians, though far less known to fame, their appellations; such as the Black Warrior, the Grizzly Bear, the Swift Deer, the Watchful Fox, the Rolling Thunder, and the North Wind. And if in the proudest days of romantic chivalry, amidst the gorgeous panoply of the court, the tournament, or the battle field, all eyes might recognize him of the Falcon, the Leopard, or the Bloody Hand, so also in humbler guise, yet with not less pride of heart, have the brave of our aboriginal Indians commonly been distinguished. No heroes of Greece, or Rome, or the Holy Land, were prouder of the badges of victory and the trophies of conquest, than are the natives of our western world. Within their own limited sphere, they appear to have sought distinction and to have earned characteristic titles, by the exercise of those qualities which are most estimated in savage life; and our own ears are familiar, even at the present day, with such titles as the Black Hawk, the Panther, Alligator, and Rattlesnake; the Young Eagle, the Black Wolf, the White Dog.

But it was not individuals, merely, by whom such appellations were borne. We have good evidence that many tribes of North America adopted, and even yet retain for their badges, the simple natural objects whose names they also bear; as in the mentioned instances of the Fox, the Turtle, and other tribes. Information on this head may be found in Colonel McKenney's work "On the Indian Tribes of North America." Another writer, familiar with Indian history, states that "all the Indian nations are divided into tribes, after the manner of the Jews."*

The Shawanese nation was originally divided into twelve tribes, or bands, all of which tribes were subdivided, in the usual manner, into families or clans, of the Eagle, the Bear, the Turtle, &c. These animals constitute their "*totems*," among which is the family or totem of the Panther, which sprung from the Kickapoo tribe.

The Crane was the badge of a branch of the Chippewa tribe, as was, doubtless, the Fox of another. The authority last

* Johnston, Indian Agent. *Archæologia Americana*.

quoted, notices that the Winnebagos, like the Algonquin, and other tribes, are divided into bands, each designated by some animal, as the bear, or by the devil, or some bad spirit.* Among the clans or bands of the Mohawks, were those of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Turtle. The Hurons also had a Bear clan. The Natches, who lived on the borders of the Mississippi, had four clans, or classes; the Sioux proper were subdivided into seven bands, and the southern Sioux into eight tribes, each being separately classed by some characteristic name.† Whether the southern Indians were similarly subdivided and distinguished does not appear. From the different structure and form of their monuments, it is not improbable that there always existed a variety of races upon this continent. And if in remote times those races were classified and designated in the mode which we have seen still exists, and long has existed,—that is to say, under the denomination of particular animals,—it is not altogether incompatible with probability, that the earthworks in which their dead were deposited, and which resemble certain animal figures, were in fact designed as representations of those national or family badges, and consequently pointed out the burial place of the members of those particular tribes.

I confess that I am aware of no positive evidence to show, that any existing tribes or branches, thus distinguished by a species of armorial bearings, actually did erect monuments of earth in the shape of the animals whose names they bear. In the absence of a more plausible conjecture, the idea suggested itself, perhaps on very insufficient grounds, that there might be some connection traced between the animal shaped configurations abounding in the west, and some of the tribes who assumed animals for their badges, and classed themselves under their names.

If, as is perhaps the case, the foregoing views are inadequate to establish the heraldic character of some of the monuments of the aborigines, they show at least that to the same common cause may be traced, at every period in the recorded history of man, in all countries, and in every stage of civilization, the adoption of symbols and devices, derived from the simplest objects, yet characterizing nations, orders and classes, and even the individual members of communities.

Philadelphia, Feb. 12th, 1838.

* McKenney's History of the Indian Tribes.

† *Archæologia Americana.*

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

*Ground Plan
of a Groupe of Indian Mounds,
of various forms, on the Elevated Prairie,
Seven Miles East of the Blue Mounds,
Wisconsin Territory.
From admeasurement by R. C. Taylor Esq.*



*The figures represent the number of Feet
in the dimensions of the Mounds.*

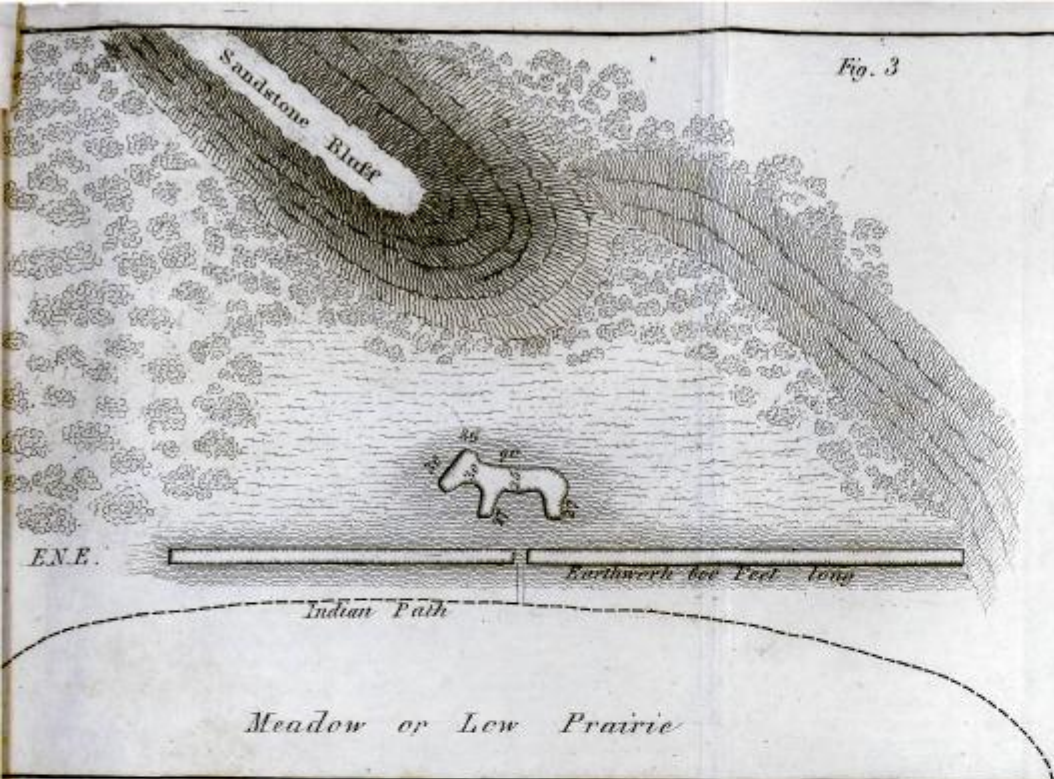


Fig. 2

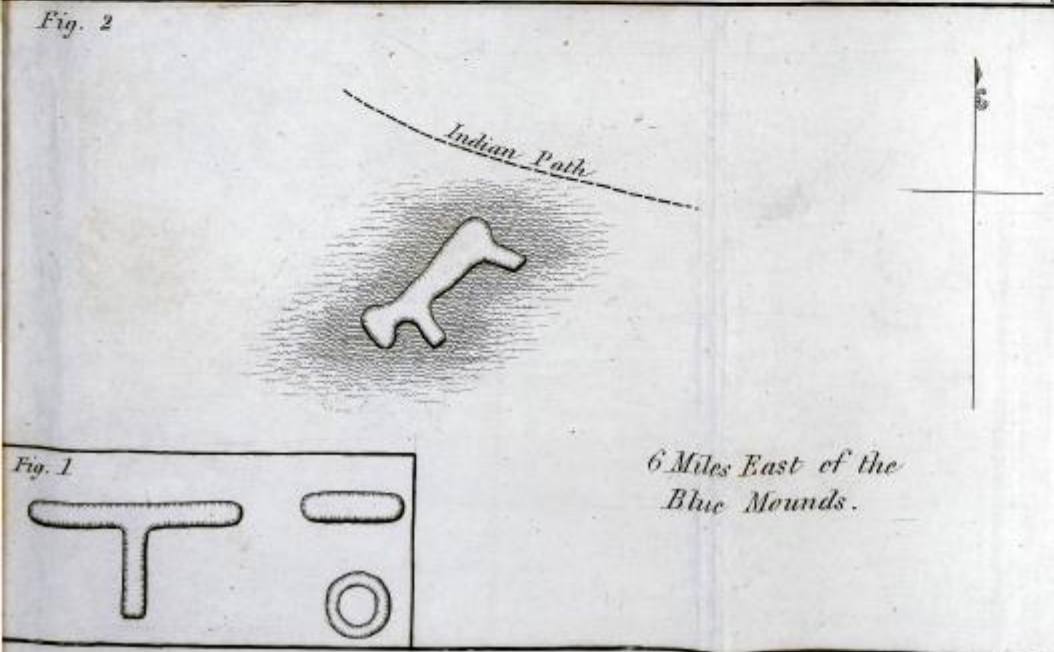


Fig. 4

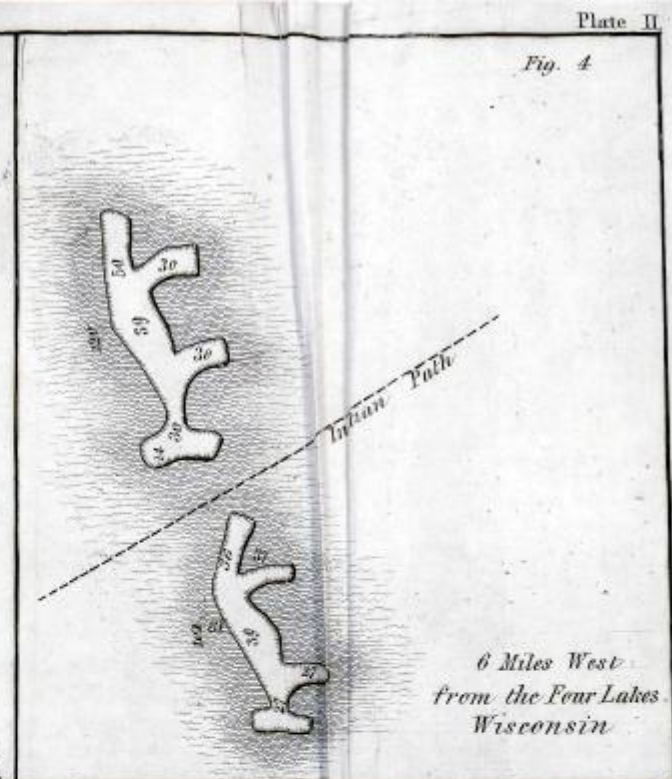


Fig. 5

