

of the earthworks and associated antiquities of our country to a distinct race of people generally referred to as the "Mound Builders," have now been utterly destroyed by the results of modern scientific investigation. Those of our readers who desire to fully acquaint themselves with these early theories will find them assembled by Dr. Cyrus Thomas, in the 12th Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology, and by Mr. Gerard Fowke in the Archaeological History of Ohio.

Writing over a century ago, Bishop Madison could see no very good reason why the authorship of the mounds could not properly be attributed to the Indians or their ancestors. His view was subsequently concurred in by such early writers as Dr. McCullough, Samuel G. Drake, Dr. Haven and Henry Schoolcraft.

Although Wisconsin is one of the greatest mound districts of America, it was not known to the early writers on the subject. It remained for Dr. I. A. Lapham to bring these to public notice, and to suggest their origin. In his "Antiquities of Wisconsin," issued in 1855, he said:

"The progress of discovery seems constantly to diminish the distinction between the ancient and modern races; and it may not be very wide of the truth to assert that they were the same people."

In the concluding remarks of this valuable work he says:

"We may therefore, without assuming any farfetched theories, suppose that a nation or tribe of redmen formerly occupied the country now known as Wisconsin, whose superstitions, ceremonies, and beliefs, required the erection of mounds of earth of the various forms represented on the plats accompanying this work; and that these tribes may have emigrated, or been driven off by others having no veneration for their ancient monuments. These subsequent tribes may or may not be the same that until very recently occupied that country. * * * It is quite certain that these later tribes continued the practice of mound-building so far as to erect a circular or conical tumulus over their dead. This practice appears to be a remnant of ancient customs that connects the mound-builders with the present tribes."—89.

After a further discussion of the subject in which he predicts that "a more thorough knowledge of the habits, religious ceremonies and superstitious beliefs of Siouan tribes will throw much light on the obscure subject of the mounds," he concludes as follows:

"It is by considerations of this nature that we are led to the conclusion that the mound-builders of Wisconsin were none others than the ancestors of the present tribes of Indians."—90.