

none of them chose to record the presence of any earthworks in its vicinity. The loss of such information as these men might have gleaned concerning these mounds is regrettable. The testimony of the contents of various burial mounds, which have been carefully investigated, is that the custom of erecting sepulchral mounds had even then not quite ceased. Intrusive burials in mounds were very probably also being made. While failing to notice, or to record information, which it would appear that they must have possessed, their writings have however preserved to us a vast amount of valuable data concerning the location, relationship, religion and customs of the early historic Indians of the Northwest, which assist us in the solution of the problems at hand.

## II.

### **Grade of Culture of the Mound Builders, Similarity of Burial Customs of the Mound Builders and Indians, Aboriginal Agriculture, Division of Labor.**

#### GRADE OF CULTURE OF THE MOUND BUILDERS.

Many early and some present day writers, with but limited information at hand, are extravagant in their estimates of the grade of culture to be accredited the "Mound Builders." Their speculative conclusions, in most instances, are proven to be but poor guesses.

They revel in a confusion of extravagant terms and would have us believe that our Wisconsin earthworks are the remains of a "dense population," of a "vanished race" of "mysterious Mound Builders" in an "advanced state of civilization," probably "related to the Aztecs," "fierce warriors" of "giant stature," and whose religious practices included "periodical pilgrimages" to "places of religious assemblage," where occurred "midnight ceremonies," "processions of priests," "idols," "temple mounds" and "altars," which "smoked with sacrificial fires." Their "great architectural and engineering skill" enabled them to construct "citadels," "sacred inclosures," "mili-