

the chain of evidence which connects the Siouan tribes of the northwest with the effigy builders of Wisconsin.

RELATIVE AGE OF WORKS.

Dr. Lapham, in 1850, presented the following tabulation of the relative ages of the several classes of Wisconsin earthworks.

"First and oldest, the animal forms, and the great work at Aztalan.

"Second: The conical mounds, built for sepulchral purposes, which come down to a very recent period.

"Third: The indication of garden-beds planted in regular geometrical figures or straight lines.

"Fourth: The plantations of the present tribes, who plant without system or regularity."—Antiquities, 92.

He explains that:

"It is not pretended to assert that this was the order in which the mounds were erected; or that the aborigines gradually acquired the art by successive essays or lessons. Indeed we are lead to believe that the complicated forms are the most ancient."—, 91.

Since these suggestions were made, the field of archaeological research in Wisconsin has been considerably extended, which leads to slightly different conclusions on certain points, and opens others to debate. For instance, in the effigy mound area of Wisconsin conical tumuli are found either so closely associated with, or in the very midst of groups of effigy mounds, as to indicate that all were erected within the same period and by the same people. The plats of the groups shown in our Plates 5 and 9, will serve to illustrate this point.

Thomas, in discussing this question, says:

"The fact that the effigy mounds were not generally used as places of sepulture, and that no cemeteries, save the burial mounds, are found in connection with them, is almost conclusive that the two, as a rule, must be attributed to the same people, that they belong to the same system."—B. E. 12, 709.

Some have believed it possible to judge of the difference in the age of various mounds in the same group or vicinity by their outward appearance.

Lapham offered the suggestion in support of his theory in regard to the relative ages of certain of the earthworks, that the animal-shaped and linear mounds were constructed of "whitish clay, the subsoil of the country," and the burial