

mounds, enclosures, and of other earthworks of minor importance was continued to some extent.

#### IV.

### Knowledge Necessary for the Construction of Mounds, Time Required to Erect, Age as Indicated by Trees, By Human Bones, Materials of Modern Date in Mounds.

#### KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MOUNDS.

The earliest, most widely distributed, and most easily constructed monuments to the dead are mounds of earth. The custom of erecting such memorials is known to have been world-wide among savage peoples.

"Savages could pile up earth or stones before they could carve a rock or hew a piece of wood. Barbarians would feel that they were showing greater honor to the memory of a leader whose loss bore upon all alike, by the erection of a monument to which every leader might contribute a share of time and labor. Nothing is more enduring; when settled into compactness and covered with sod, a heap of earth will remain unchanged through vicissitudes that reduce to ruins any other product of human industry."—Fowke, Ohio, 43.

Of the earthworks of Ohio he says:

"It would be considered an unreasonable proposition that an intellect which could organize a confederacy such as Tecumseh came near consummating among indifferent or hostile tribes, or a conspiracy like that of Pontiac which almost wiped out of being the settlements over a wide territory, could not plan works similar and equal, to those in the Ohio valley. No less invalid is it to assert that a man who will chase a deer a hundred miles or travel several times that distance to attack a foe, or that the woman who will raise a crop of corn, is too lazy to assist in building a mound; or that persons who will maim, starve or mutilate or otherwise maltreat themselves, or will destroy property representing months of labor, on the death of a chieftain or leader, would not be at the trouble to carry a few yards of earth or stones, in conjunction with other mourners, if inclined to show their grief and respect in that manner."—Fowke, Ohio, 472.

The earthworks so numerous in our state of Wisconsin are of a very simple nature. No engineering skill is displayed