

illustrated by a rude wood-cut in the "Milwaukee Advertiser," an early newspaper. The name Aztalan is said to have been given by him to the place because of a tradition of the Aztec, or ancient inhabitants of Mexico, noted by Humboldt, "that their ancestors came from a country at the north, which they called "Aztalan." This early description Messrs. Squier and Davis copied and published with various suggestions of their own, in the first volume of the Smithsonian Contributions. In 1850, Lapham made a careful survey of Aztalan and of other earthworks in the vicinity, and in 1855 published a description illustrated with several fine plates and figures in his "Antiquities of Wisconsin." In this paper he corrected various errors and exaggerations set forth in the earlier reports and newspaper accounts. Since Lapham's time there have appeared in various newspapers, periodicals and books a large number of descriptions of Aztalan nearly all of which are of so very faulty and fanciful a nature as to be undeserving of notice.

This interesting inclosure, now almost obliterated by many years of cultivation, may be briefly described as being in the shape of an irregular parallelogram, lacking one of the long sides which is supplied by the bank of the Crawfish which forms its eastern boundary. It is reported to contain $17\frac{2}{3}$ acres of land. The length of the north wall Lapham gives as 631, the west as 1419, and the south as 700 feet. The width is given as about 22 feet and the height at from 1 to 5 feet. Along the outer edge of its entire length, at somewhat regular distances, were rounded projections which have been frequently referred to as "buttresses or bastions," but which Lapham determined "were never designed for either of the purposes indicated by these names."

"The distance from one to another varies from 61 to 95 feet, scarcely any two of them being exactly alike. Their mean distance apart is 82 feet. On the north wall, and on most of the west wall, they have the same height as the connecting ridge, and at a little distance resemble a simple row of mounds.

On the inner wall, opposite many of these mounds (projections), is a slight depression or sinus; possibly the remains of a sloping way by which the wall was ascended from within the inclosure."—Lapham, *Antiquities*, 43.

Within the wall at the northwest corner of the enclosure