

Hon. J. V. Brower, whose valuable labors in the field of Minnesota archaeology and history are well-known, says:

"The hopes, desires and beliefs concerning a great nation of ancient mound-builders in the Northwest who preceded by long ages of time the first appearance here of Sioux Indians, have been shattered and abandoned: Critical and determined inquiries in the field and the library of this society (Minnesota Historical Society), have resulted in an unwelcome determination, based on scientific facts, that no such nation preceded the advent of the Isanti, m'de Wakan, Ihankton and Teton bands on the headwaters of the Mississippi.

*"All of those Dakota Indians, with the additional organizations which constituted the aggregation of the Seven Council Fires, originated from the migratory and disorganized element which left the effigy mound locality in Wisconsin to seek their liberties and follow their pursuits in a land of promise. They carried with them full knowledge of the construction of mounds, embankments, imitative figures and hieroglyphics."—Kathio, 128.

He also makes the statement that:

"Copper implements and ornaments, and gunflint objects of ancient Indian origin found in Wisconsin, near the profuse groups of effigy mounds advantageously chartered by Lapham, are the same in all essential particulars as those observed in Northern Minnesota, and we are now compelled to admit that archaeological explorations and history convincingly prove that fact, even to the acquiescing in the statement of the Winnebago Indians that they were 'Hotcangary,' meaning first of parent speech."—Kathio, 126.

As will hereafter be shown, other leading archaeologists and historians of Minnesota agree with Brower in his conclusions.

In an article entitled "Symbolic Earth Formations of the Winnebagoes," Miss Alice Fletcher, who has had the opportunity of studying the ceremonies of the Winnebago, on their Nebraska reservation, describes their buffalo dance, which is given four times in the month of May and early June.

"The dancers are four men and a large number of women. As the dancers enter the enclosure, each woman brings in a handful of fine earth, and in this way two mounds are raised in the center, at the east, that is between the eastern entrance and the fire, which is about fifteen feet from the eastern entrance. The mounds thus formed are truncated cones. An old man said to me: 'That is the way all mounds were built; that is why we build so for the Buffalo.' The mounds were about four inches high and not far from eighteen inches in diameter. On top of the two mounds were placed the head-gear worn by the men, the claws, tails and other articles used by the four leaders, or male dancers. * * * The two mounds remind one of larger structures and suggest many speculations, particularly when taken in connection with their manner of building. * * * In the great mystery lodge—Just as that part of the initiation of the candidate where he is to fall dead to the old life, be covered as with a pall, and then be