

two older brothers and a friend, explored it. They found the walls extensively covered with pictures and hieroglyphic characters, and charcoal paintings. It thus became known to a few neighbors, and a few boys, who in the winter resorted to it and built fires and carved their names and their own pictures.

"About the first of June, 1879, I heard of such a cave with such pictures and characters, and immediately visited it. I quickly saw that there was something of much value to the cause of archeological science; that the rude pictures were evidently quite old; that the now closed chamber had been an open cavern in the cliff, which had been closed, not less than one hundred and fifty years, by a land-slide from the hill above. A poplar tree, two feet in diameter, having one hundred and twenty growths of circles, stood as a dead tree twenty-five years ago, when Mr. Samuel first came here, and had rotted and fallen; and a birch tree stood upon the edge of the cliff where the land-slide had passed over, of from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty annular growths.

"I visited Mr. Samuel and informed him of the value to science of the inscriptions and possible discoveries to be made by digging. He immediately took measures to stop the vandalism that was fast destroying them; to enlarge the opening, and clear out the sand that had been washed in from the land-slide, and half filled the cave. In the meantime I took *fac similes* of the pictures and characters by pressing tissue paper into the grooves, and with black crayons followed each line to its termination, preserving also its original width. In this way I got perfect outlines; and placing other sheets over them, in the light of a window pane, took small copies that showed the pictures in their original form and size. I sent one set to Prof. Chamberlin, State Geologist, not intending to make anything public till an examination had been made by an archeological expert, and their value to science ascertained. In the meantime, it having become noised about that I was examining such a cave, I was called upon by the local editor of the "Chronicle", of La Crosse, to whom I gave copies of some of the most prominent of the pictures, from which hasty and imperfect wood-cuts were prepared, which appeared in the "Chronicle".

"The article was seen by Mr. Lyman C. Draper, Secretary of the State Historical Society, who wrote to me for information in regard to it. I sent him copies of the pictures, so far as I had