

deed, he who can answer one, can answer the others. But nothing has, as yet, come to light, satisfactory to the public mind, on this engrossing subject.

The book of Mormon, which has caused two civil wars, cost many lives, and is now founding a new State, if not a new Empire, among the mountains of California, is the first, the last, and the only book ever published, purporting to be a history of the people who inhabited this country at the time when the tumuli and fortifications were erected.\* But as no one, except the followers of the prophet, give any credence whatever to the story, the world is not a whit the wiser for the information it contains; and we remain in the dark, and probably shall till the end of time, as to who were the people who did this work, where they came from, what became of them, or what was their design in erecting these mounds.

The fact that human bones have been found in some of them is no evidence that they were erected as tombs for the honored dead; because the Aborigines found here by the whites, have long been in the habit of burying their dead in them; and as many of these tumuli have been opened without finding either bones or anything else in them but soil, the presumption is very strong, that the bones sometimes found in them are from the interments of the Indians who more recently occupied the country.

For aught that I know, or any one else knows, they may have been built for tombs; but I say the finding of bones in them at this time is no evidence of such a design; and one very strong, and to me unanswerable argument in favor of the correctness of this position, is, what must be known by

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\* The late Prof. C. S. Rafinesque wrote the *Ancient Annals of Kentucky*, prefixed to *Marshall's History of Kentucky*, published in 1824. These *Ancient Annals* profess to trace the Aboriginal History of Kentucky, from the creation, through six periods, down to a comparatively modern date, giving quite minute details of Noah and Peleg's floods, and of many conquests and re-conquests of the country by the opposing Indian tribes. It is a grotesque production, and deserves to be ranked, in point of historical authority, with the veritable Book of Mormon.