

height varying from one to five—though even in his time it had been plowed down in many places. If its original height averaged four feet, its solid contents could not have been less than

A Quarter of a Million

cubic feet. Various outlying mounds or lookouts, and others within the *enceinte*, must have added not a little to the labor of construction.

A work of such dimensions seems to contrast surprisingly with all we know of Indian industry and concentration. The late Lewis H. Morgan would say that the whole erection was thrown up as a foundation for a long series of connected huts, serving as a corral inclosing a central court. Though military terms are at once suggested by apparent walls and towers, it is unlikely that the works here were built for military purposes, inasmuch as the "fort," if it were one, would be commanded on three sides—north, east and west, by higher ground within arrow-shot.

The reasons for such an outlay of energy here as was without a parallel in the Northwest, will perhaps always remain conjectural. Lapham is inclined to think Aztalan may have been a center of pilgrimage like Jerusalem and Mecca. It is delightfully situated—it slopes gently down to the river bank—and its look-out mounds are still high enough to show a wide prospect among oak openings.

"But what of the brick walls?" is the question which has been rising in every reader's mind.

Aztalan Brick

if I can use the term without misleading, are the greatest mystery of the spot. They are shapeless clods of clay—burnt red and pretty hard. I could easily have gathered a bushel of them scattered on the surface of the plowed field which over-runs the ramparts. Every bit shows holes where the sedge from the river bank had been matted and massed in the clay, perhaps to help in burning it to brick.

One fragment, which I brought away, has a stick more than an inch thick burned to charcoal in the middle of it. Remembering that plows have torn this brick-work in pieces for full forty