

of them were holes where the sedge from the river bank had been mixed with the clay, and the shape of each stalk and blade was plain. It seemed clear that the soil—a sort of loam—had been thrown up into a rampart, that the whole was coated with clay, matted and massed together with bushes and sedge; that over all was heaped abundance of prairie-grass, with perhaps huge trees, and the whole set on fire. Yet it would not have been necessary to burn trees for turning clay to brick. That transformation is still wrought in Nebraska, where wood is scarce, with prairie-grass alone.

For myself, I am already satisfied as to the process by which the terra-cotta¹ ramparts at Aztalan were formed, but in order to accumulate evidence for those who are weaker in faith, I propose to visit that unique work again when winter breaks up. My hope is sanguine that there yet remain various nooks where by scraping off the dust which ages have deposited in thick layers, I shall lay bare broad surfaces or incrustations of prehistoric brick-work, which could only have been baked just where they lie—in *situ ipsissimo*.

In many other aspects Aztalan is of great antiquarian interest, but my aim is merely to show a noteworthy coincidence between constructive methods there and in Asiatic Troy. It is a good illustration that men in similar stages of culture, no matter where they live, will adopt identical means for securing identical ends.

The First Page of Wisconsin History

Reckoned by years in the Union, Wisconsin is younger than twenty-nine of our States, but reckoned from the year it was first traversed by white men, it is older than almost all of them.

¹ Terra cotta—burnt earth. This is all Dr. Butler claims. In his preceding article he said, "they are shapeless clods of clay, burnt red, and pretty hard." The matter of size and shape does not necessarily enter into the general definition of brick. The great English lexicographer, Prof. W. W. Skeat, simply defines brick as "a lump of baked clay." L. C. D.