

portant groups; and as the first laid out roads followed the line of the trails, travelers in those early times would frequently come upon these mounds, and as they were undisturbed, they would attract the attention of even the most careless. Many of them have since been obliterated, and the progress of civilization has served to hide them from notice. It were well, however, if the State could preserve these monuments of the past. The clue to many important facts may have been lost, but the hints of a scientific system which are presented here, are extremely valuable. Ethnologists are looking to these works on account of their peculiar character. Dr. Phené, the distinguished English ethnologist, at the very date of this writing, is in the State, having made a long journey to study the prehistoric tokens found here. The writer has had the opportunity of interchanging views with him, and finds that these works are not surpassed in interest by any yet discovered. It is with pleasure that this article is furnished to the Historical Society, whose purpose it is to perpetuate the historic and prehistoric record of the State. The effort will be, to put on record just those things which every citizen ought to know, and which are important for the State to preserve.

The significance of the mounds, the objects for which they were erected, the various uses to which they may have been subject, will not be here considered. The main object of the article is to give a description of the different effigies, and so fix on paper those shapes which are so rapidly vanishing from the soil. It took many persons, perhaps years and ages of toil, to place these effigies on the surface of the hills, and if the few days which one person can spend, will perpetuate the knowledge of them, we shall consider the time well spent. There is a sense of satisfaction in perpetuating this record, for the strongest and dearest associations of the prehistoric race, were evidently clustered about these very mountains. Not only were tribal names and tribal signs embodied in them, but social customs and religious rites were connected with them. Thus preserving these shapes, we not only preserve the divinities which were very sacred to the prehistoric races, but we preserve also the symbols which will help us better to understand the primitive society and customs which prevailed here.