



Fig. 30.—GROUP AT BLUE MOUNDS. (R. C. Taylor.)

Prairie. They are beautifully shaped, and with much regularity arranged at intervals for the distance of about fifteen hundred feet, terminating abruptly in a mound eighteen feet high, and two hundred and twenty-five feet in circumference. To the north and south of the figures, and parallel to them, are numerous embankments with passages through them.

A series of mounds are described by Mr. R. C. Taylor, as occurring about twenty-eight miles west of the Four Lakes, near the great Indian trail from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. The line extends about half a mile. It has been suggested, Mr. Taylor says, that they were designed to represent the buffalo, which formerly abounded in this vicinity; but the absence of a tail, and the characteristic hump of the animal, would seem to point to a different conclusion. They display a closer resemblance to the bear, than to any other animal with which we are familiar. These figures seem to be most prevalent, and though preserving about the same relative proportions, vary in size from ninety to one hundred and twenty feet. Another group is situated on the same trail, ten miles west from Madison. One lies on low, level ground and appears to be solitary. Its head is evidently too large

for either buffalo or bear; but it resembles one of these animals as much as anything.

9. The raccoon is another effigy, sometimes seen. A very remarkable specimen of this kind was discovered by the writer