

ous people. They followed peaceful pursuits, and their works bear evidence of the efficiency of their government. Their staple food was maize. Their works do not exist on the Atlantic coast except far to the south. Their pursuits being agricultural, they occupied the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and the Lake region as the country most suitable for those purposes—thus being the precursors of the present race of men who, led by the same instincts, are occupying the same lands, and for the same purpose, but with an advanced civilization which is capable of making the territory once occupied by the mound builders of the stone age, the grain producing country for the world, and the centre of the governmental power. The mound builders being driven out, their territory was occupied by their assailants. Under the sway of a nomadic and warlike people, the works of the ancient race were left to decay, and their cultivated fields laid to waste. Thus, through centuries, was rest given to the soil, in order to renew fertility and prepare it for the occupation of the present race. After us, is in the future.