

were not well adapted to that end. The sites chosen were places well suited for defensive operations, near some stream or lake, and generally in the vicinity of rich soils. Doubtless, in those earlier times, the different tribes or clans were in the habit of making war upon each other; and, therefore, found it necessary to have their towns fortified. The entrances to these defences were the most difficult of access from without, and the more easily defended from within. Altogether they exhibited a good degree of military science.

The mounds which abound so extensively throughout the Mississippi valley, have elicited a great amount of speculative controversy. Some of them are circular in form, others are in the shape of birds or quadrupeds; they are also of various sizes. That some of them were used for the purposes of sepulture may be inferred from the fact, that, on opening them, human bones have occasionally been found in great abundance. As others bear no traces of having been used for such purpose, it has been conjectured that they were constructed as monuments of victory in war, or as places for observing their religious rites. As the largest forest trees are found upon both the fortifications and the mounds, it is evident they are of ancient origin, and must have existed anterior to the discovery of the country by European navigators.

The principal Indian tribes inhabiting the country now known as Wisconsin, when first explored by the whites, were the Menomonees, Winnebagoes, Sacs, Foxes, and Chippewas. There were several other tribes having a partial residence upon our territory. By treaty the most of these have ceded their lands to the general government, and retired westward before the march of civilization, until, at present, we find but comparatively few remaining of these once powerful races and lords of the soil.

The Oneidas, in the northeastern part of the State, the Brothertowns, residing in Calumet County, and also the Stockbridges, who once resided in the same county, immigrated from the State of New York, having previously purchased their lands from the Menomonees and Winnebagoes, about the year 1822. They were induced to remove west-