

in New York, diagonally through central and northern Ohio, to the Wabash. These works, regarded as defensive, are the largest and most numerous in the country. Here the trenches are on the *outside* of the parapet; while in most of the other works, where there are any trenches at all, they are on the *inside*—perhaps excavated for the material with which to construct the parapets, and which class Dr. Foster regards as sacred enclosures.¹ Bishop Madison, an early and able writer on American antiquities, declares that the ditch is found *inside* the walls of nearly all the remains to be traced in his day.

Wisconsin was no exception to this general rule—that the great line of contest and defence in prehistoric times extended from western New York to the Wabash. Remote from those scenes, the character of our ancient remains go to corroborate the idea, that their early occupants were not a warlike people. Dr. Brunson remarks that “while in Ohio the most prominent of these tumuli were forts or fortifications, in Wisconsin but few of that description are found;” and he adds, “I can now call to mind but one such, that at Aztalan.”² This exception is an error; for Squier and Davis, Dr. Lapham, and Dr. Foster, unite in declaring that the works at Aztalan were not built for defensive purposes, having no ditches, and completely commanded from the summit of a ridge, extending along the west side, much higher than the west walls themselves, and within fair arrow shot. Judge Gale remarks, that “Wisconsin can scarcely dignify any of her old earth-works into fortifications,” and adds, that there is no probability that Aztalan is an exception.³

Dr. Lapham records the existence of but a single ancient structure in Wisconsin “with a regular ditch or fosse all around the walls,” located at or near Plover Portage, on the Upper Wisconsin; and this he did not personally inspect, but gives the statement on the representation of a corres-

¹ Foster's *Pre-Historic Races*, p. 174-76.

² *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, iv, pp. 224, 225.

³ Gale's *Upper Wisconsin*, p. 23.