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sufficient for their needs. — There is no *Established Church* in the United States, nor is any preference given by the law of any State to any one religious body over any other body, although such was formerly the case in the older States, and might be now enacted, so far as the Federal Constitution is concerned, in any State. However all the States have, each for itself, pronounced in favour of absolute religious equality and embodied such a provision in their respective constitutions. When questions relating to the temporalities of any ecclesiastical body or person come before the courts of law, they are dealt with by the ordinary law like other questions of contract and property. Religious feeling seldom enters into political strife, and there is a general desire to prevent its intrusion either in Federal or in State matters.

### XI. Aborigines and Aboriginal Remains,

by  
Professor O. T. Mason,  
of the Smithsonian Institution.

The aboriginal history of the United States divides itself into two chapters, the *Archæologic* and the *Ethnographic*. The former relates to a period about whose beginning there is much dispute and whose close shades into the latter imperceptibly. The ethnographic chapter opens with the romantic adventures of Ponce de Leon (p. 401) in Florida with the Timucua Indians and is not yet closed.

I. **Archæology.** The archæologist from abroad will find in the United States no such imposing ruins as meet his eyes everywhere in the Old World. Not even with Mexico or Central America or Peru can the ruins scattered over the Federal Republic enter into competition. The same is true of the age of these relics. It has been both alleged and disputed with vehemence, and that by eminent authorities on both sides, that at Trenton (p. 228), Madisonville and Comerstown in Ohio, Little Falls in Minnesota, Table Mountain in California, and elsewhere, palæolithic man, away back in glacial times, left traces of his existence. But the true remains of antiquity within the borders of the United States are the shell-heaps, bone heaps, and refuse-heaps; the ancient quarries, workshops, and mines; evidences of primitive agriculture; graves and cemeteries; mounds and earthworks; pueblos, cliff-dwellings, and cave-dwellings; trails, reservoirs, and aqueducts; pictographs and sculptures; relics of ancient arts and industries; crania and skeletons belonging to vanished peoples. And these relate to a grade of culture upon which all advanced races once stood. These remains and relics are quite unevenly distributed over the States, just as populations and industrial centres are scattered to-day.

*Shell - Heaps, Bone - Heaps, Refuse - Heaps.* Along the Atlantic Coast, up and down the great affluents of the Mississippi, on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and of the Pacific Ocean, are vast accumulations of shells, left by former savage tribes. Mingled with the

shells are bones of the dead and the apparatus which they used in their lifetimes. In each locality the mollusks whose remains are discovered were of those species which still abound in the region. The most celebrated shell-heaps are found along the New England shores, in the Chesapeake Bay, throughout Florida, in Mobile Harbour, on the Tennessee River, at Santa Barbara and San Francisco in California, and about the shallows in Washington State. Bone-heaps are found on the plains of Dakota and are the remains of ancient buffalo feasts. The refuse-heaps are all that is left on ancient Indian camp sites, and there is scarcely a town in the Union that is not near one or more of these old habitations of the past.

*Quarries, Workshops, and Mines.*† The aborigines of the United States had no other industrial life than that which belongs to the stone age. They quarried quartz, quartzite, novaculite, jasper, argillite, steatite, catlinite, slate, mica, volcanic rocks, always from the best sources of the material. The quarrying was, of course, simply the opening of shallow pits and drifts, by means of the rudest tools of wood, antler, and bone; and in the exercise of the most rudimentary engineering. They blocked out the art product at the quarry, leaving millions of spalls and rejected pieces, which resemble somewhat the so-called palæolithic implements. They manufactured these substances by flaking, chipping, pecking, boring, sawing, and grinding, using as tools hammers, saws, drills, polishers, etc., of stone and other materials at hand. Copper abounded in the W. central states, the raw material coming from Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties, Michigan. This copper was not smelted, but treated as a stone. It was cold-hammered on stone anvils with stone hammers, ground into shape on sandstone, and finished after the manner of a stone implement. †† All the relics of the ancient Americans of this region are of the neolithic type, though the tourist will doubtless be told that this is not true and will be shown all sorts of marvellous things.

*Primitive Agriculture.*††† Not only are finished implements recovered that must have been used in rude tillage; but, in S. Michigan especially, the whites found that they had been anticipated. Garden beds or rows were discovered, where maize, pumpkins, beans, and other indigenous plants had been cultivated.

*Graves and Cemeteries.*†††† The best-known antiquities of the

† Holmes, *Am. Anthropologist*, Wash., iii, p. 24, and elsewhere.

*Moorehead*, *Prim. Man in Ohio*, N. Y., 1892, Chap. IV.

†† *Whittlesey*, *Smithsonian Contributions*, Vol. xiii.

††† *American Antiquarian*, Vols. 1 and 7.

†††† *Farrow*, *Mortuary Customs*. I. *Am. Rep. Bur. Ethnol.*, Wash., pp. 87-204, fig. 1-47.

*Moorehead*, *Prim. Man in Ohio*, N. Y., 1892, Chap. V. See also *Short*, *N. Americans of Antiquity* (Harpers).

*Archæol. Explor. Lit. & Sc. Soc. of Madisonville*, 1879, p. ii; appendix.

*J. Cincin. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, iii; 1 and 3.

*Thurston*, *Antiq. of Tennessee*.

*Farrow*, in *Wheeler*, 'Survey W. of 100th Merid.' VII

United States are the ancient cemeteries, the mounds, and the earthworks. It is very difficult to discover an Indian grave to the E. of the Alleghenies or to the W. of the 100th meridian. Within those limits they occur everywhere. The disposal of the dead was different in all the families of tribes. Inhumation, embalment, in-urning, surface disposal, aerial sepulture, aquatic burial, cremation all had their advocates and practitioners. The most celebrated cemeteries are at Madisonville (Ohio), near Nashville (p. 357), and near Santa Barbara (p. 497).

*Mounds and Earthworks.* The mound and earthwork region includes W. New York, N. W. Pennsylvania, W. Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, E. Missouri, S. Michigan, Wisconsin, and Dakota.

'Within this territory are the copper mines of Lake Superior, the salt mines of Illinois and Kentucky, the garden beds of Michigan, the pipe-stone quarry of Minnesota, the extensive potteries of Missouri, the stone graves of Illinois and Tennessee, the workshops, the stone cairns, the stone walls, the ancient roadways, and the old walled towns of Georgia, the hut-rings of Arkansas, the shelter caves of Tennessee and Ohio, the mica mines in South Carolina, the quarries in Flint Ridge (Ohio); the ancient hearths of Ohio, the bone beds and alabaster caves in Indiana, the shell-heaps of Florida, oil wells, and ancient mines and rock inscriptions'. [Peel, 'The Mound-Builders: their works and their relics' (Chicago; p. 35).]

Both mounds and earthworks are, however, to be seen sparingly everywhere. The largest mounds in the United States are in Illinois, opposite St. Louis (p. 349), and no one should spend a day in that city without taking a trip across the great steel bridge and visiting the *Cahokia Mound* near E. St. Louis. In the neighbourhood are over fifty others of enormous size. In the cemetery at Marietta (p. 296), and at Grave Creek, on the Ohio river, 12 M. below Wheeling (p. 293), may be seen mounds of great size.† The most famous tumulus in the United States is the *Great Serpent Mound* (p. 347), which, with the land adjacent, is the property of the Peabody Museum, in Cambridge (p. 94).††

To the E. of the Rocky Mountains, the most interesting remains are the earthworks. And of these there are two sorts, those designed for defence and those erected for ceremonial purposes. The former are found on bluffs and tongues of land with precipitous sides. These natural forts are strengthened by ditch banks and stone heaps and gateways covered within and without by mounds. The latter, on the contrary, are in exposed plains. Their ditch banks are in circles and polygonal figures and the parts are arranged as for religious and social occasions.

Besides those already mentioned the following defensive and ceremonial works may be mentioned (all in Ohio) — the *Great Mound*, at Miamisburg; *Fort Ancient*, Warren Co.; the *Newark Works*; the *Alligator Mound*,

† *Putnam*, An. Rep. Peabody Mus., Cambridge, Mass., xii and xiii, pp. ii & 370.

†† *Putnam*, *Century Magazine*. March and April, 1890.

near Granville; the Stone Fort, near Bourneville, the Fortified Hill in Butler Co.; the Liberty Township Works; and the Hopeton Works.

Consult *Thomas's Catalogue* for full list (Bulletin of the Bureau of Ethnology, Washington); also Smithsonian Contributions, Vol. I.

*Pueblos, Cliff-dwellings, and Cave-dwellings.* In the drainage of the Colorado and the Rio Grande, within the boundaries of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, and the N. tier of Mexican states are the pueblos and the cliff-dwellings. Twenty-one pueblos along the Rio Grande, between  $34^{\circ} 45'$  and  $36^{\circ} 30'$  N. lat., are still inhabited by two different stocks of Indians, the Tañean and the Keresan. The Zuñi, residing near the W. border of New Mexico, on the 30th parallel, speak an independent language; and the Moki, on the reservation of the same name, N.E. Arizona (see p. 465), dwelling in seven towns or pueblos, belong to the Shoshonean linguistic stock. Besides these inhabited villages of stone and adobe, there are many hundreds in the territory just named that have long been tenantless, and most of them are in ruins. The largest of them and by far the most imposing ruin within the United States is the *Casa Grande* (see p. 518), or *Casa de Montezuma*, which, Bancroft says,† has been mentioned by every writer on American antiquity. The material is adobe made into large blocks. Three buildings are standing, one of them sufficiently preserved to show the original form. The largest collection of ruined pueblos in this region yet examined was surveyed by the Hemenway S.W. Expedition in 1888. The group lies on the Salado river, near the town of Phoenix (p. 518).‡ In the cañon regions bordering and opening into the Colorado river channel, especially upon the San Juan and the Dolores and their tributaries, are to be found cliff and cave dwellings innumerable. These are easily explained by the nature of the geologic formations. In the precipitous walls there are strata of soft stone sandwiched between layers of hard material. The action of the elements has carved out these soft layers, leaving a roof above and a floor below upon which the ancient cliff-dweller built his home. Indeed, he did not wait for the frost and the rain to do the work, but with his pick-axe of hard basalt dug out a cave for himself by making a tiny doorway in the face of the cliff and excavating behind this as many chambers as he pleased. Many of these cliff and cavate habitations are high up and difficult of access, but they overlook long valleys of arable land.†† The relics found in this region are the envy of collectors, and the natives still manufacture excellent pottery, to imitate the old. The ancient is far superior in quality to the new, and hundreds of dollars are paid for a single piece, though fragments of the finest ware may be had for the picking up.

*Trails, Reservoirs, and Aqueducts.* For the purposes of war and

† Bancroft, *Native Races*, N. Y., 1875, IV, 621-635.

†† Cushing, in the *Compte Rendu* of the Berlin meeting of the Society of Americanists.

††† Bancroft, *Native Races*, N. Y., 1875, IV, 650-661.

trade the savages traversed the United States from end to end. They had no beasts of burden save the dog, consequently they made portages from stream to stream, carried their canoes and loads across on their backs, and then pursued their journey. The traces of these ancient paths of primitive commerce may yet be seen. In the same rude manner these savages had learned to store up and conduct water for home use and for irrigation. Especially in the South West are the works of this class to be studied.

*Pictographs and Sculptures.* The very ancient people and their modern representatives had attained to that form of writing called pictographic. The traveller will see in museums all sorts of figures scratched on bark, painted on skin or wood, etched on bone or ivory, engraved on pieces of stone, and he will often come upon the same designs sketched on cliffs and boulders. These constitute the written language of the aborigines. In true sculpture they were not at all adept and they had no alphabetic writing. Once in a while mysterious bits of stone turn up with Cypriote or other characters thereon, but they never belonged to the civilization of this continent.

*Relics of Ancient Art.* As before mentioned the native tribes were in the neolithic stone age. Therefore, it is not exaggerating to say that the whole surface of the United States was strewn with relics. In every ancient grave, mound, or ruin they abound. The tourist will have no trouble to find in every town a museum containing these objects and in every hamlet some one whose house is packed with them. So desirable are they that thousands are fraudulently made and palmed off upon the unwary. These spurious objects find their way into foreign collections and very much embarrass the problems of archæology.

*Crania and Skeletons.* Much difficulty has been encountered by archæologists in distinguishing the crania of the truly prehistoric American from those of the Indians encountered by the early explorers. The problem is further embarrassed by artificial deformations and by changes produced by the pressure of the soil. Excellent collections exist in Cambridge, Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati, and St. Louis.†

*Ethnography.* The native tribes that once covered the entire domain of the Union belonged to fifty independent linguistic stocks. Some of these were spread over vast areas, for example, the Algonkian, Athapaskan, Iroquoian, Muskhogean, Shoshonean, and Siouan. But the majority of stocks occupied small areas, chiefly along the Pacific coast. †—

But a wonderful change has come over the surface of the United States in two centuries. Excepting a few small settlements of In-

† For the best résumé of the literature on the Archæologic Chapter, see Winsor, *Narr. & Crit. Hist. of Am.*, I. pp. 328-412 (Boston, 1889).

‡ See exhaustive account in vii An. Rep. Bur. Ethnol., Wash., 1891, pp. 1 142, with map.