

THE EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, October 12, 1870.

REMAINS OF A RACE OF GIANTS FOUND IN ARIZONA—STRANGE AND UNKNOWN POTTERY.

Two miles west of Barfield Point, in the Arkansas county, Ark., on the east bank of the lovely stream called P. M. Scott river, stands an Indian mound, some twenty-five feet high and about an acre in area at the top. This mound is called Chickasawba, and from it the high and beautiful country surrounding it, some twelve square miles in area, derives its name—Chickasawba. The mound derives its name from Chickasawba, a Chief of the Shawnee tribe who lived, died, and was buried there. This chief was one of the last of the race of hunters who lived in that beautiful region, and who once peopled it quite thickly—for Indians we mean. From 1820 to 1831 he and his hunters assembled annually at Barfield Point, then as now the principal buffalo place of the surrounding country, and bartered off their furs, peltries, buffalo robes and honey to the white settlers and the trading boats on the river, receiving in return powder, shot, lead, blankets, money, etc. Aunt Kitty Williams who now resides there, relates that Chickasawba would frequently bring in for sale at one time as much as twenty gallons of pure honey in deer-skin bags slung to his back. He was always a firm friend of the whites, a man of gigantic stature and herculean strength. In his nineteenth year he took a young wife and by her had two children. In 1831, she died and the old chief did not long survive her, dying in the same year, aged fifty-three or four years. Mr. W. Fitzgerald, who moved to that country in 1832, says that up to the time of his death, Chickasawba supplied him with game. He was buried at the foot of the mound on which he had lived, by his tribe, most of whom departed from the nation immediately after performing his funeral rites. A few, however, lingered there up to a late date, the last of them, we believe, being John East, who in 1860, at the breaking out of the war, joined Captain Charley Bowen's company, and fought the war through, as gallant a "reb" as any of them, coming back home in '65 to return to the arts of peace. Chickasawba was perfectly honest, and the best informed chief of his tribe. His contemporary chiefs were Long Knife, Sunshine, Corn Meal, Moonshine, (Mike Brennan), etc. Mike Brennan and Quill buried him. He left a son named John Pemescott. A number of years ago, in making an excavation into or near the foot of Chickasawba's mound, a portion of a gigantic human skeleton was found. The man who was digging becoming interested, unearthed the entire skeleton, and from measurements given us by reliable parties, the frame of the man to whom it belonged could not have been less than eight or nine feet in height. Under the skull, which was easily slipped over the head of our informant (who, we will here state, is one of our best citizens), was found a peculiarly shaped earthen jar, resembling nothing in the way of Indian pottery which had before been seen by them. It was exactly the shape of the round-bodied, long-necked carafes or water decanters, a specimen of which may be seen at Gaston's dining table. The material of which this vase was made was a peculiar kind of clay, and the workmanship was very fine. The belly or body of it was ornamented with figures or hieroglyphs consisting of a correct description of human hands, parallel to each other, open palms outward, and running up and down the vase, the wrists to the base and the fingers towards the neck. On either side of the hands were *tlacac*, or thigh bones, also correctly delineated, running around the vase. There were other things found with the skeleton, but this is all that our informant remembers. Since that time, wherever an excavation has been made in the Chickasawba country in the neighborhood of the mound, similar skeletons have been found, and under the skull of every one were found similar funeral vases, almost exactly like the one described. There are now in this city several of the vases and portions of the huge skeletons. One of the editors of the *Appeal* yesterday measured a thigh bone, which is fully three feet long. The thigh and shin bones, together with bones of the foot, stood up in a proper position, in a physician's office in this city, to assure five feet in height, and show the body to which the leg belonged to have been from nine to ten feet in height. At Beaufort's Landing, near Barfield, in digging a deep ditch, a skeleton was dug up, the leg of which measured between five and six feet in length, and other bones in proportion. In a very few days we hope to be able to lay before our readers accurate measurements, and description of the portions of skeletons now in the city, and of the articles found in the graves.—*Memphis Appeal*.

A PEOPLE ON STILTS.

The pictures of Rosa Bonheur have made us well acquainted with the singular habit which the shepherds of the Landes, south of Bordeaux, have adopted of passing the greater part of their lives on stilts. The first time that a group of these people are seen, there is a curious emotion in the mind as of a strange prodigy. Dressed in sheep skins worn by time, knitting stockings or spinning thread, they gravely pass over reeds and furzes; the spectator buried as it were in the bushes, they lifted nearer the sky, on the verge of the horizon. The long stick which they handle with so much address, serving as a balancing pole, still more to the strangeness of their appearance, they look like gigantic crickets preparing to spring. In the Landes of Medoc, not only the shepherds but every one uses this style of locomotion; the children have no fear, and the women, who are invariably dressed in black, resemble large ravens perched on dead branches. The origin of stilts is unknown, but it is probable that they were not in use before the Middle Ages, as ancient authors make no mention of them. In the patois of the country they are called *changuis*, which would seem to fix their origin in the period of the rule of the English, deriving it from our word shank; probably some inventive British

mind gave them this serviceable mode of progression. Perched on these borrowed legs, the shepherd watches over his charge, concealed in the brushwood, crosses unharmed the marshes and quickens, fears not to be torn by thorns or dry twigs, and can at any time double the speed at which he ordinarily walks. Whether it has any effect on the character cannot be decided; but certain it is that these people are distinguished by their wild, savage nature. They have a horror of strangers, and when they perceive a traveler coming toward them they hasten to flee into concealment.

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