

generation after generation passed away, or whether the time compassed in their erection was comparatively brief must be left to conjecture.

This much is known: long before Columbus had thought of the Occident the mound builders had finished their span and returned to mingle with the soil. When the first caravel of the explorer pushed its prow through the waves of the Atlantic trees grew above the mold of a people that had lived in the "New World."

There is in the fact that this race of dead giants is being scooped out with shovels to fill the streets and be pressed by the hurrying feet of civilization, an example of the grim reality of material progress. And there is another lesson. It recalls the circumstance that nothing may be deemed lasting:

So fleet the works of man, back to the earth again,  
Ancient and holy things fade like a dream.

Persons to whom prehistoric anthropology has been a study, and the people in general are watching the demolition of the famous mound in the once-beautiful walnut grove at Martin's Ferry with not a little interest. The big mound has, it is supposed, stood for nearly 1000 years, and now the ancient landmark, known to almost every person in the Ohio valley, and which has been viewed by fully 400,000 people, is being removed, not for the benefit of science, but that the earth in it may be used for street-filling. A dozen men are at work with half that number of horses and cars. Great crowds are daily visiting the scene, and relic-hunters are making life a burden for C. C. Cochran, the contractor, and his workmen.

Martin's Ferry, which has for half a century prized the big tumulus so highly, is greatly excited over the discoveries made. At times the crowds have been so large that the men have found it almost impossible to work. The dirt is hauled a distance of 600 yards for filling, preparatory to paving the street with fire brick, and every lode is watched by those in search of relics. The mound was purchased by O. R. Wood of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad by C. C. Cochran, a brother of Judge R. H. Cochran of Toledo, for the purpose named, with the understanding that the relics, no matter of what value, were to go to Wood.

In 1870 a party of Mount Pleasant students dug a large trench into the west side of the mound, working for several days, and until dark every evening. Bethany students heard of this, and came one night and immediately proceeded to excavate where the Mount Pleasant boys had left off. After digging two or three hours the exploration gave valuable results. A large human skeleton was found and several pots and other relics. When the Mount Pleasant students heard of the imposition the next morning they left in disgust.

Parties have often talked of removing the mound, but nothing had been done until the demolition by Mr. Cochran. The people objected to the removal. Cochran offered to hazard money at long odds that they could not stop him and he proceeded.

The mound is 29 feet high and measures 117 feet in diameter. Few if any of the 1500 mounds in Ohio are

larger. This is said to be the first large one ever removed. The farther into the mound the excavations are made the more interesting the discoveries become. It is expected that hidden treasures will be found in the bottom, several feet of which will be left to the last.

Human skeletons, skulls and bones, elk antlers, horns, pottery, paleolithic implements and engravings, granite implements, arrow heads, spear heads, pale gray flint, cup stones, agricultural implements, nut crackers, hammer stones, sinkers, perforated and variegated stones and implements and divers other unclassified articles are being found.

One strange feature about the mound is the clay in it. This is yellow, and different from any in the neighborhood. Nine-tenths of the mound is made of clay. The other tenth is of dark earth and gravel. The mound is covered with gravel from the summit to the bottom. There are from thirty to forty strata of earth. Then comes a stratum of clay of from four to eight inches in thickness, then dark earth, with gravel intervening.

None of the strata of soil is over five inches in thickness; the farther down the darker they are, except the bottom, which is of very sticky clay, so much so that water can be squeezed out of it. The mound is more symmetrical than many others. Beneath the whole, upon a level with the surrounding grove, will, it is thought from present indications, be found hard burned clay, and a baked hearth or basin as in others. Upon these basins cremations may have taken place of dead or living subjects, or it is surmised that they were employed in burnt offerings. Substances resembling charcoal are usually found in these basins. The earth, as stated before, is laid up in the different strata not in horizontal lines, but in conformity with the face of the mound, which is not the ordinary method revealed by excavations.

Some of the skulls and human bones are in a good state of preservation, while others crumble into dust when removed. It is remarkable how sound some of the bones are. Several of the skulls found would seem to indicate that in the days of the mound builders there were giants in this section of country. The skulls are twice as large as those of the present age. One pair of thigh bones, almost as well preserved as if buried a few years ago, are so large that they must have belonged to a person at least nine feet tall. Several jaw bones are large and the teeth are found. Some of these look as if they had done good service. Several sets are complete.

Over two skeletons found in one place was a thin stratum of red clay, looking as if it had been burned and carefully cemented over the dirt, as if put there for the purpose of keeping off the water. The skulls all faced westward, as did the points of thousands of flint darts found in close proximity to the skeletons.

The elk antlers measured over seven feet across and six and one-fourth inches in diameter. The work of removing these was tedious and it was absolutely impossible to get them out intact. They were in a good state of preservation. The largest antlers ever heard of anywhere measured only ten feet ten inches. The elk is no longer

found in North America. The finding of these antlers makes it appear that the elk once inhabited this section.

A strange smoking-pipe was found on Saturday. In it was something believed to have been tobacco. The pipe measured two and three-fourths inches in length and two-thirds of an inch in diameter in the inner circle and a little larger on the outside. The pipe is round and has a round hole in the bottom, the hole measuring a fourth of an inch. The pipe, supposed to be made out of stone, is turned at the bottom, and the exterior is as smooth as glass.

Most of the relics are found deep in the mound. The stones, of which many have been unearthed, are entirely different from any in the Ohio valley, and some are really beautiful specimens. On several are delicate paleolithic engravings. The paleolithic implements are numerous and are the finest ever seen. They range from the large point, shaped after the fashion of a laurel leaf, down to very small but pretty ones in different colors.

One granite implement is different from any ever heard of or seen by mound explorers. Very little pottery has been found. The relics naturally will sell at good prices. Many inquirers have been received concerning them. An enterprising merchant obtained permission to exhibit them and thousands of people are viewing them, the show being free. People are coming from hundreds of miles around to see the mound and the contents.

The articles of personal use found in the tumulus must have been exposed to an intense heat. Only clay or stone could have resisted it. If it were not for this more might be learned of their habits and the advance they had made in arts. But enough remains to show that they had developed a civilization of vigorous growth. The precise purpose of the earthworks can hardly be known, but the people who built them must have been of great numbers and industrious, not like the scattered Indian tribes or hunters. The multitude employed upon the great system being not producers must have been supported by the labor of another multitude who tilled the soil.

There are no data by which the exact age of these mounds can be fixed. They have probably stood deserted for 1000 years. This particular mound was covered by large oak trees known to have grown for more than a century, and these live for several hundred years. The mound must have been abandoned for a long period before the ground was occupied. Some persons think that the dark soil proves conclusively that the ancient people were years building this mound, and that they visited it annually for the purpose of worshipping.

Walnut Grove, in which the ancient landmark stands, was prior to the destruction of the trees by the cyclone in 1887 one of the most beautiful in the world. It was a noted picnic, camp meeting and outdoor meeting ground. It is in the upper end of town and the location excellent. Ex-President Hayes spoke there and pronounced it the most beautiful he had ever seen. He greatly regretted to hear of its destruction some years later. Several parties attempted to buy the grove and make a park out of it. The ground on which