

The findings of the arbitrators must be reduced to writing and signed by at least a majority of them, and filed with the clerk of the district court. Upon complying with the procedure provided in the statute, the award of the arbitrators has the effect of a judgment or decree. In this manner water owners, desirous of having their rights defined legally, and put in such a shape that they can be sold as other property, yet who desire to avoid litigation, may accomplish the result wished for without great expense or any illfeeling.

CONFIRMATORY OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

TRUTHS which relate to the same subject always tend to support each other; and when the connection between them is traced they merge together into a solid, indivisible mass. This is the condition which the information that is being disclosed concerning the aboriginal inhabitants of this continent is gradually assuming, and the Book of Mormon appears as the core of the whole body; the magnetic center to which every newly discovered fact relating to ancient America gravitates and clings, being impelled so to do by the power of that affinity which truth always has for truth.

Prof. F. W. Putnam contributes to the *Century* an article contained in the March and April numbers of that magazine, which bears the caption, "Prehistoric Remains in the Ohio Valley," which is singularly confirmatory of the Book of Mormon. The Professor would probably repudiate such an insinuation, but one who is familiar with that record might easily imagine that the author of the article in the *Century* had sought for proof in support of some of its historical portions. The article opens thus:

"Of the many prehistoric remains in America none are of greater interest than the embankments, forming squares, circles and other figures, in the Ohio Valley. All through the Mississippi Valley, however, are found works of a similar character, as well as along the many tributaries of this great water route, by which a people from the south could have reached, and probably did reach, the central and eastern portions of our continent."

The retreat of the Nephites northward and eastward, probably in a general line with the courses of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, to the place of their final extermination by their enemies, the Lamanites, which occurred in the northern part of the

State of New York, is narrated in the Book of Mormon; and Professor Putnam finds proof of the truthfulness of that narrative in the structures of which he speaks.

Again he says:

"Studied as a whole this valley affords undoubted evidence of successive occupation by different peoples, some of whom probably made it a brief abiding place, while others were lost by absorption, or possibly in some instances, were driven out by their successors."

In support of the theory that the inhabitants were not a homogeneous race, he continues:

"The fortified hills and other defensible works in the valley suggest many a long struggle, while the admixture of crania of different forms in some of the burial places is evidence of the mixing of different peoples; and what more likely than that of the conquered with the conquerors?"

Further on he speaks thus of the evidences of the existence of different races:

"Bearing upon this point of different peoples we find that the prevailing form of the skulls from the older burial places across the northern portions of the continent, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, is of the long, narrow type (dolichocephalic), while the skulls of the old peoples of Central America, Mexico and the southwestern and southern portions of the United States are principally the short, broad type (brachycephalic). Following the distribution of the long and short skulls as they are now found in burial places, it is evident that the two forms have spread in certain directions over North America; the short or broad-headed race from the south, spreading out towards the east and north-east, while the long or narrow-headed race of the north has sent its branches southward down both coasts, and towards the interior by many lines from the north as well as from the east and west. The two races have passed each other here and there. In other places they have met; and probably nowhere is there more marked evidence of this meeting than in the Ohio Valley, where have been found burial places and sepulchral mounds of different kinds and of different times. This variation of the character of the burial places agrees with the skulls found in them. Some contained the brachycephalic type alone; in others, both brachycephalic and dolichocephalic forms were found with many of the mesocephalic or intermediate form; indicating a mixture of the two principal types, which seem to be of different races or sub-races, notwithstanding that several writers, whose opinions must have weight, regard all the native people of America—most, however, excepting the Eskimo—as of one race."

Next Prof. Putnam treats upon the evidences, pro and con, that the aboriginal races of this continent sprang from a common stock, and the manner in which he hovers around the truth and the nearness with which he at times approaches it with his deductions, are both curious and interesting. Owing, however, to the incomplete charac-

ter of his data, he reaches conclusions which are incorrect in regard to the origin of the different races he finds in the New World.

A description of earthworks of an ancient character and of curious forms, illustrated with engravings, is given. The subject of one of the illustrations is the famous "Serpent Mound," situated in Adams County, Ohio, which is accompanied by a detailed description, including diagrams, of this wonderful object. The serpent lies on an elevated mound or promontory which extends into the low or bottom lands of Brush Creek. It has curves resembling those of a live snake, and, including these, is 1,254 feet long. The average width of the body is about twenty feet, and the height is from four to five feet. The jaws are open and seem about to seize an oval object, supposed to represent an egg. This oval is about one hundred and twenty feet long, by about sixty feet wide. Near the serpent are artificial mounds, a burying place, and other objects which indicate that the spot was held to be one of peculiar interest, and probably sacredness, by the people who constructed this strange emblem.

A tract of land embracing about sixty acres, and including the serpent and its interesting surroundings has been purchased in the name of the Peabody Museum, and laid off as a park, great care being taken to preserve everything of archaeological value. Prof. Putnam surmises this serpent to be the emblem of an idolatrous system of religion, which conjecture corresponds, at least in part, with portions of the Book of Mormon which describe the condition of idolatry into which the Lamanitish race dwindled. On the whole the Professor's article is an interesting one, especially to a believer in the book which Joseph the Seer translated.

NOT AN EXCELLENT WAY.

A RESOLUTION of an astounding and malodorous character was introduced in the City Council on Tuesday, April 8th by Mr. W. F. James. Worst of all, it was adopted, so that the whole body was tainted with its effluvia. It was to the effect that the city should advertise for bids from railroad companies to haul away the dirt and dispose of its garbage, with the understanding that the party assuming the contract should be responsible for all damages accruing through injury to persons aggrieved by the dumping of the refuse.