

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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THE DALLES OREGON

MORE CLIFF DWELLERS.

Discovery of Another Ruined City in New Mexico.

It Shows That the Prehistoric Race That Lived There Was Civilized—Over Fifteen Thousand Rooms in the Face of the Cliffs.

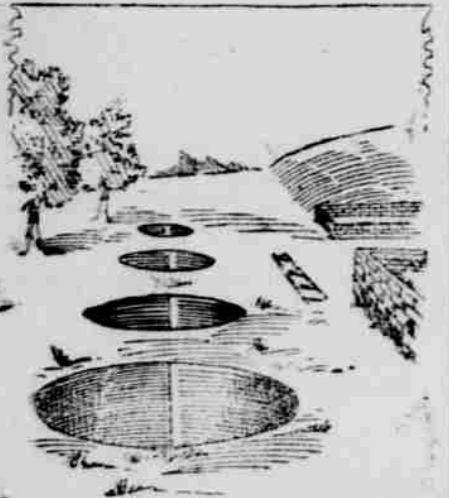
To the lover of archaeology no field presents a finer prospect than this portion of northern New Mexico, writes a New York Advertiser correspondent from Abiquiu, N. M. It abounds in antiquities of every description pertaining to the prehistoric races of America. Its ruins and monuments are undoubtedly as ancient as the pyramids and somewhat analogous in many respects. Mr. A. P. F. Conpe, the artist, and the writer have been in camp amid the ruins for the last two weeks, excavating and investigating generally.

We estimate that the city must have contained fully 50,000 inhabitants, as we have counted over 15,000 rooms in the face of the cliffs, where they are ten deep and ten feet square on an average. They extend around the face of a circular mountain for a distance of over five miles. The level mesa on top is full of the ruins of their old temples, pow-wow holes and dwellings. Estimating three persons to each room, and 15,000 rooms, we have 45,000, but the probabilities are that each room was the abode of at least five persons, and the buildings on top of the mesa may have contained fully as many more. It is safe and conservative to say that it was a city of at least 50,000 inhabitants.

That they had enemies there can be no question, as they selected a strong natural fortress for their city. Their enemies were undoubtedly savages, perhaps the Apache Indians, whose present reservation is on the hunting grounds of their forefathers, not more than fifty miles distant from this ruined city.

The cliff dwellers were doubtless a civilized people to a great extent, as their architecture, their pottery and other evidences here abundantly testify. It would seem that their enemies finally prevailed over them, destroying them and their city, as they have disappeared from the face of the earth.

The country is as wild as the interior of Africa. It is not an agricultural region, and how fully 50,000 people main-



tained life in such a place and under such conditions will forever be a puzzle to the most discerning archaeologist. There is a large spring of delicious, cool water on the face of the cliff near the only entrance. This at least insured a permanent water supply against any prolonged siege of the enemy.

They buried their dead on the mesa in catacombs hollowed out for a distance along a main avenue of over two miles. The sight is, indeed, a ghastly, gruesome one, never to be forgotten.

Grimacing skulls and crumbling bones reflect back the light from torches. The sepulchres are hollowed out in the walls similar to the rooms in the face of the cliffs. It is a dry, soft conglomerate formation, the arches and walls of which are self-supporting, and never was there a more favorable place, nor could there be, for a repository of the dead than this.

We have already excavated to a considerable amount pottery in a good state of preservation; also copper ornaments and vessels. We have four Mexicans at work and will remain here a month yet in hopes of making further important discoveries.

The ruined city was discovered in January last by Mr. A. P. F. Conpe, an Englishman, who has spent the last six years in this part of New Mexico hunting and fishing.

The ruins are so well preserved that they look as if they might not have been long abandoned; yet how many thousand years have rolled around since the city thrived with life and action no one can even conjecture.

The country abounds in many other ruins of the prehistoric race of America. In Canyon Largo, about sixty miles from here in southern Colorado, there is quite a tier of cliff-dwelling villages in which much valuable pottery is said to have been found. But this was evidently the chief city and capital of the cliff dwellers, as the pow-wow holes and foundations of large public buildings and the plaza about them would indicate. This is indeed the Pompeii of America, and well worthy the attention of the scientific world generally.

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