

MOULD BUILDERS.

The following is taken from the St Louis Republic, supplied to that paper by a correspondent at Kingwood, West Va:

Were the mound builders of America differently constructed from man of today?

Were there more giants among them than there are now among the white race? Or, were they a fading race of giants leaving their footprints behind that other races might know they existed? Their history was not written in books, but bulged in their mounds, which held their works of art, implements of war and working utensils.

The fore-arm and shin bone of the negro are longer than that of the white race, and it is said he cannot jump as far as his white brother, other things being equal, because his heels leave the imprint further back than the white man's. These things we know are distinctive of the African race.

Had the mound builder as defined an anatomical distinction?

Were their skulls as a rule formed differently from ours?

These questions forced themselves upon my mind when I examined a skull found in the Castle Mound which contained five Wormian bones, and heard the history connected with the mound.

This mound is on what is known as Castle Farm, about five miles south of Kingwood, W. Va., and was first opened in 1834 by Hon. James C McGrew and others of Kingwood. They found a peculiarly shaped stone pipe, a stone relic in the shape of an hour-glass, which was neatly and mechanically made, and, no doubt had been used for the recording of time.

Wiley's history says of this hour-glass: "It might be captured and placed in the mound for safe-keeping by an Indian, as the mound builders are supposed to have left Egypt when the sun dial was used, and before the invention and introduction of the hour-glass."

In 1881 an exploration of the mound was made and in the bottom was a layer of bones, men, women and children having been buried, in sitting posture, in a circle, with their feet out. Bits of charcoal scattered through ashes, also the bones showing to a greater or less extent the effects of fire, tell plainly the story that they burned their dead—were cremationists. Above this layer a couple of feet, is a second layer, buried in the same manner as the first, and directly above it, in the top, are found other remains.

Every skull found in the mound by Mr Wiley and others contained Wormian bones, i. e., extra bones found in the sutures of the bones of the cranium, and named from Olans Wormius, who is said to have first discovered them, although they had been noticed by a physician at Strasburg, G Andernoch, before Wormius described them. They are generally found on top of the skull and are quite rare. Occasionally a skull is found containing one or two, but the skull seen by the writer had five of these extra bones on the top sutures of the skull.

A great many skulls were found in this mound, but they were so brittle, from the effect of fire, no doubt, that they could not be taken out without crumbling to pieces. The top of every skull showed the Wormiana.

The skulls were long and narrow, with low foreheads and long narrow faces. The wonderfully large bones found interspersed through the bottom layer show that there were giants among them, at least seven feet high, whilst the majority would indicate heights of 5 feet 8 to 6 feet.

If it is speculation, then, to say that they were a fading race of giants with these data, what of the scientific men who construct whole skeletons, even giving us the contour in outline, of prehistoric animals when they have one or two bones to start from?

The mound builder sought a warmer clime in the sunny south, likely forced to do so by the on-coming of the Indian.

E M Heersmans of the Preston County Journal of Kingwood, W. Va., has a few pieces of incinerated bones, some arrow heads, Indian hatchets, etc., that he found in a mound on the farm of Isaac Elliott, two miles east of Kingwood.

Dr Trippett of Kingwood has a very fine specimen of the Indian hatchet. It is made of the hardest granite, beautifully be-specked and very smooth, found on the Ridenon farm, Portland district, three miles from Kingwood. He has an arrow head of white flint, almost perfect in form, which was found a few days ago by Master Charles Morris, on the Morris farm, Cheat River Bottom, one and a half miles south of Kingwood. The doctor also owns a very small arrow head, about the size of a man's thumb nail. It is exceedingly sharp, and the most perfect ever seen in this country. It was found in a cave about fifteen miles west of Kingwood. It had a film of something on it when found that was bitter and puckering to the taste, which required an acid solution to remove. This is thought to be a poisoned arrow.

William Graham, a tenant of the Hon. C M Bishop's, two miles east of Kingwood, found on the farm on which he lives, the smallest specimen of an Indian hatchet the writer has ever seen. It is about two inches by 1, made of granite, and was given to Dr Trippett and is now in the Trippett-Heersmans collection.

Mr Graham also found an exceedingly large spear head of dark flint on the lower end of the Morris farm, spoken of above,

known as the Old Ferry place.

Many years ago there were three mounds, on the Andrew Goff farm, seven miles above Rowlesbury, on the Baltimore and Ohio, Preston County, W. Va. Two of them have been torn down, but one yet remains.

There is another on the old McGill farm three miles east of Fellowsville, Preston County, and another close to Kingwood, which will soon be explored.

A WHOPPER.

Everywhere throughout the country the democratic party is on the full run from the specter of its tariff and silver record.—Oregonian.

"Everywhere throughout the country" when men read the above statement they will rise up and call it a whopper of levathan proportions. No one knows better that the statement is false than the Oregonian. It was deliberately and with malice prepense made of whole cloth. In less than three months the Oregonian with an air of candor will be denouncing Crisp, his ways and means committee, and the democratic party in general as being free traders of the strictest sect. The ways of the Oregonian are past finding out because it is not the way of truth. But a reminder right here. The democrats will not run from their tariff record like the Oregonian ran away from its. People here have not forgotten the singular fact that the Oregonian openly deserted its record at the very time when a representative of the Tariff League was in Portland. This league is rich in money supplied by manufacturers and what they can not get otherwise they buy with this money. That's all.

The DEMOCRAT will bet six bits that these self-same republican papers which row pretend to take comfort in the election of Crisp as speaker, over Mills, because, as they say, Crisp is a moderate protectionist, will, in less than two months, be heaping anathemas upon the head of Crisp and that of his ways and means committee as being rank free traders. They will, for a fact, but "free trade" has charms for thousands of people who once were frightened at the name.

The supreme court of California has decided that the grand jury of San Francisco, as empaneled by Judge Wallace is an illegal body. It was this grand jury that indicted "Boss" Buckley, Bruner and others. Spectacle of the attempt of a democratic judge doing all in his power to punish democratic and republican bidders being set aside by a republican supreme court is not a hopeful one.

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