

out of the bosom of the prairies—perhaps, only to break the monotony of the scene. Convenient, as places of observation and defence for generations which have long since passed away; these natural elevations perhaps gave to them the first idea of building similar structures where nature had not performed that office for them.—Mounds or tumuli are first seen in western New York; thence along the southern shore of Lake Erie; and we find them increasing in size and numbers in the southern portions of Ohio. They are seen thence with more or less frequency throughout the whole extent of the valley of the Mississippi.

Humboldt reported having seen mounds of a similar character in various parts of Mexico, while on his journey of discovery through that country many years ago. At a much later period, Stephens visited many ancient remains of the labors and skill of a people in Central America, who have left no other records of their history behind them, than that of cities and statues, now lately covered by almost impenetrable forests. Returning to our own prairies, we find the traces of an ancient people in the ruins of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin; and a vast number of low mounds of all shapes, literally covering and fortifying the ridges of the prairie around Waukesha, in the same State. The principal difference between those we have mentioned here and those in Kansas, consists in those of the latter region being on rather more of a magnificent scale; and the fact that some of these contain such stata of rock as we have already stated.

Whatever may have been the object of those who

built the structures
tions, obse
ficial ones
the best ev
in human
used in th
squares an
spicuous fi
the defenc
the revolu

But wit
artisans o
singular b
ones; and
them with
wends his
his weary
finds no s
the plains
mound cov
standing i
vites him
anxious ey
the countr
toward a
longed to
a survey
weariet li
summit of
the plain-