

built the artificial mounds, nature had here prepared structures which would answer the purpose of fortifications, observatories, temples, and tombs. That the artificial ones were used for some of these purposes, we have the best evidence possible, in the fact of their abounding in human bones. It is said that iron tools were not used in the construction of them; yet many of the squares and parallelograms make much more of a conspicuous figure after the lapse of unknown ages, than the defences thrown up in the Atlantic States during the revolutionary war.

But without stopping to speculate as to who were the artisans of the artificial mounds, we may admire the singular beauty of many of both those and the natural ones; and no cultivated mind can help contemplating them with the deepest interest. As the traveler slowly wends his way over or across the plains of Kansas, and his weary limbs and burning brow call for repose, he finds no shelter among the billows, or on the levels of the plains that surround him. But even the distant mound covered with green foliage, as it generally is, and standing in bold relief on the verge of the horizon, invites him to its shade. Thitherward his steps and his anxious eye are directed. He has been traveling where the country appeared to rise constantly from his feet toward a higher point to meet the horizon. He has longed to reach a position where he could stand and take a survey of the vast campaign. Notwithstanding his wearied limbs and burning brow, he rests not until the summit of the elevation is attained. He glances over the plain—then up to heaven with solemn reverential