

surface of the alluvial soil. It consisted of parched corn, such as the Indians often buried when alarmed, and in the present year the Ohio had risen so high as to inundate the very spot, and throw down several fresh layers of mud upon the site of the corn.

Five miles below Wheeling, on the left bank of the Ohio, is a terrace of stratified sand and gravel, having its surface about seventy-five feet above the Ohio. On this terrace is seen a large Indian mound. On our arriving at Marietta, I learnt from Dr. Hildreth that skeletons had been found in it at various depths, together with pipe-heads and other ornaments. Their workmanship implies a more advanced state of the arts than that attained by the rude Indians who inhabited this fertile valley when it was first discovered by the white man. There are many other similar mounds in the valleys of the Ohio and its tributaries, but no tradition concerning their origin. One of these, near Marietta, in which human bones were dug up, must be more than eight centuries old, for Dr. Hildreth counted eight hundred rings of annual growth in a tree which grew upon it. But, however high may be the historical antiquity of the mounds, they stand on alluvial terraces which are evidently of a very modern geological date. In America, as in Europe, the oldest monuments of human labour are as things of yesterday in comparison with the effects of physical causes which were in operation after the existing continents had acquired the leading features of hill and valley, river and lake, which now belong to them. Dr. Locke of Cincinnati has shown that one of the earth-works, enclosing about one hundred acres on the great