

Miami, although nearly entire, has been overflowed in a few places, and partially obliterated. He infers from this and other facts, that these mounds extending to high-water mark, and liable to be occasionally submerged, were constructed when the streams had already reached their present levels, or, in other words, their channels have not been deepened in the last 1000 or 2000 years.*

The arguments for assigning a very remote period to the Indian antiquities above alluded to, have been stated with great force and clearness by General Harrison, late President of the United States, who was practically versed in woodcraft, and all that relates to the clearing of new lands. In his essay on the aborigines of the Ohio valley,† he states, that some of these earth-works are not mere mounds, but extensive lines of embankment, varying from a few feet to ninety feet in altitude, and enclosing areas of from one to several hundred acres.

“ Their sites,” he says, “ present precisely the same appearance as the circumjacent forest. You find on them all that beautiful variety of trees which give such unrivalled richness to our forests. This is particularly the case on the fifteen acres included within the walls of the work at the mouth of the great Miami, and the relative proportions of the different kinds of timber are about the same.”

He then goes on to observe that if you cut down the wood on any piece of wild land, and abandon it to nature, the trees do not grow up as before, but

* Trans. of Amer. Geologists and Naturalists, p. 232.

† Trans. of Hist. and Phil. Soc. of Ohio, vol. i., 1839.