

one or two, or at most three species get possession of the whole ground, such for example as the yellow locust, or the black and white walnut. The process by which the forest recovers its original state is extremely slow. "On a farm of my own," says he, "at the end of fifty years, so little progress had been made, as to show that ten times that period would be necessary to effect its complete assimilation. When those kinds of timber which first establish themselves have for a long time remained undisputed masters of the soil, they at length die by disease, or are thinned by the lightning or tempest. The soil has no longer a preference for them, and by a natural rotation of crops other species succeed, till at length the more homogeneous growth ceases, and the denuded tract is again clothed with a variety of wood." As the sites of the earthworks command extensive views, it is reasonable to infer that no trees were suffered by the Indians to spring up upon them or in the immediate neighbourhood, and as no difference could be detected in the mixture of trees upon and near the mounds, from the state of the surrounding forest, General Harrison concludes that several generations of trees had succeeded each other, before the present trees began to grow, and that the mounds were probably as ancient at least as the Christian æra. The rich valley of the Ohio, when first discovered by Europeans, was thinly peopled by rude tribes of Indian hunters. In what manner, then, could they have conquered and driven out that more civilized race which evidently preceded them? Harrison suggests that a great flood, like those which occurred in 1793 and 1832 after heavy rain, when