

dressed in a white robe, ascends the tree, and with a golden pruning hook, cuts off the mistletoe, which is received in a *sagum*, or white sheet. Then they sacrifice the victims, praying that God would bless his own gift to those on whom he has bestowed it.”—
(*Clarke.*)

Discoveries on the Muskingum.

IN the neighborhood of Fort Harmer, on the Muskingum, opposite Marietta on the Ohio, were discovered, by Mr. Ash, an English traveller, in the year 1826, several monuments of the ancient nation.

“Having made; (says this traveller,) arrangements for an absence of a few days, I provided myself with an excellent tinder box, some biscuit and salt, and arming my Indian travelling companion with a good axe and rifle, taking myself a fowling piece, often tried, and my faithful dog, I crossed the ferry of the Muskingum, having learned that the left hand side of that river was most accessible and the most abundant in curiosities and other objects of my research.” In another part of this work we shall describe works of a similar sort, on the opposite side of the Muskingum, as given by the Antiquarian Society of Ohio.

“On traversing the valley between Fort Harmer and the mountains, I determined to take the high grounds, and after some difficulty, ascended an eminence which commanded a view of the town of Marietta, and of the river up and down, displaying a great distance along the narrow valley of the Ohio, cultivated plains, the gardens and popular walks of that beautiful town.

“After a very short inspection, and cursory examination, it was evident that the very spot or eminence on which I stood, had been occupied by the Indians, either as a place of observation, or a strong hold. The exact summit of the hill I found to be artificial; it expressed an oval, forty-five feet by twenty-three, and was composed apparently of earth and stone, though no stone of a similar character appeared in that place.

“The base of the whole was girded round about by a wall of earth, in a state of too great decay to justify any calculation, and

the whole was so covered with heavy timber, that I despaired of gaining any further knowledge, and would have left the place, had I not been detained by my Indian companion, whom I saw occupied in endeavoring to introduce a pole into a small opening between two flat stones, near the root of a tree, which grew on the very summit of this eminence.

“The stones we found were too heavy to be removed by the mere power of hands. Two good oak poles were cut, in lieu of levers and crows. Clapping these into the orifice first discovered, we weighed a large flat stone, tilting it over, when we each assumed a guarded position, in silent expectation of hearing the hissing of serpents, or the rustling of the ground-hog’s litter; where the Indian had supposed was a den of one sort or the other.

“All was silent. We resumed our labor, casting out a number of stones, leaves and earth, soon clearing a surface of seven feet by five, which had been covered upwards of fifteen inches deep, with flat stones, principally lying against each other, with their edges to the horizon.

“On the surface we had cleared appeared another difficulty, which was a plain superficies, composed of but three flat stones of such apparent magnitude that the Indian began to think that we should find under them neither snake nor pig; but having once begun, I was not to be diverted from my task.

“Stimulated by obstructions, and animated with other views than those of my companion, I had made a couple of hickory shovels with the axe, and setting to work, soon undermined the surface, and slid the stones off on one side, and laid the space open to view.

“I expected to find a cavern: my imagination was warmed by a certain design I thought I discovered from the very beginning; the manner the stones were placed led me to conceive the existence of a vault filled with the riches of antiquity, and crowded with the treasures of the most ancient world.

“A bed of sand was all that appeared under these flat stones, which I cast off; and as I knew there was no sand nearer than the bed of the Muskingum, a design was therefore the *more* manifest, which encouraged my proceeding; the sand was about a foot deep, which I soon removed.

“The design and labor of man was now unequivocal. The

space out of which these materials were taken, left a hollow in an oblong square, lined with stones on the end and sides, and also, paved on what appeared to be the bottom, with square stones, of about nine inches diameter.

“ I picked these up with the nicest care, and again came to a bed of sand, which, when removed, made the vault about three feet deep, presenting another bottom or surface, composed of small square cut stones, fitted with such art, that I had much difficulty in discovering many of the places where they met. These displaced, I came to a substance, which, on the most critical examination, I judged to be a mat, or mats, in a state of entire decomposition and decay. My reverence and care increased with the progress already made ; I took up this impalpable powder with my hands, and fanned off the remaining dust with my hat, when there appeared a beautiful tessellated pavement of small, colored stones ; the colors and stones arranged in such a manner as to express harmony and shades, and portraying, at full length, the figure of a warrior under whose feet a snake was exhibited in ample folds.

“ The body of the figures was composed of dyed woods, bones, and a variety of small bits of terrous and testaceous substances, most of which crumbled into dust on being removed and exposed to the open air.

“ My regret and disappointment were very great, as I had flattered myself that the whole was stone, and capable of being taken up and preserved. Little more, however, than the actual pavement could be preserved, which was composed of flat stones, one inch deep, and two inches square. The prevailing colors were white, green, dark blue, and pale spotted red ; all of which are peculiar to the lakes, and not to be had nearer than about three hundred miles.

“ The whole was affixed in a thin layer of sand, fitted together with great precision, and covered a piece of bark in great decay, whose removal exposed what I was fully prepared to discover, from all previous indications, the remains of a human skeleton, which was of an uncommon magnitude, being seven feet in length. With the skeleton was found, first, an earthen vessel, or urn, in which were several bones, and some white sediment.

“ The urn appeared to be made of sand and flint vitrified, and rung, when struck, like glass, and held about two gallons, had a

top or cover of the same material, and resisted fire as completely as iron or brass. Second ; a stone axe, with a groove round the pole, by which it had been fastened with a withé to the handle. Third ; twenty-four arrow points, made of flint and bone, and lying in a position which showed they had belonged to a quiver. Fourth ; a quantity of beads, but not of glass, round, oval, and square ; colored green, black, white, blue and yellow. Fifth ; a very large conch shell, decomposed into a substance like chalk ; this shell was fourteen inches long, and twenty-three in circumference. The Hindoo priests, at the present time, use this shell as sacred. It is blown to announce the celebration of religious festivals. Sixth ; under a heap of dust and tenuous shreds of feathered cloth and hair, a parcel of *brass* rings, cut out of a solid piece of metal, and in such a manner, that the rings were suspended from each other, without the aid of solder or any other visible agency whatever. Each ring was three inches in diameter, and the bar of the rings an half inch thick, and were square ; a variety of characters were deeply engraved on the sides of the rings, resembling the Chinese characters."

Ward's History of the Hindoos, page 41 and 56, informs us, that the god Vishnoo, is represented holding a *sea shell* in his hand, called the "sacred shell ;" and, second, he states, that "the utensils employed in the ceremonies of the temple, are several dishes to hold the offerings, a hand bell, a lamp, jugs for holding water, an incense dish, a copper cup, a seat of Kooshu grass for the priests, a large metal plate, used as a bell. Several of the articles found buried in this manner, resemble these utensils of the Brahmin priests, while some are exactly like them. The mat of Kooshu grass resembles the mat of hair and feathers ; the earthen dish, the conch shell, are the very same in kind ; the brass chain might answer instead of a bell, or iron plate to strike against, which would produce a jingling sound. A quantity of round, oval, and square beads, colored variously, were found ; although Mr. Ward does not say, that beads were a part of the utensils of the Hindoo priests, yet we find them on the necks and arms of both their gods and their mendicants.

Pottery of the same kind found in those ancient works, have also the quality of eduring the fire. The art of making vessels of clay, is very ancient ; we find it spoken of by Jeremiah the prophet, nearly three thousand years ago.