

On contemplating the traces of what appears to have been the long since abandoned fortifications, mounds, &c., found in the great valley of the Ohio, and in other parts of our country, there seems to be a disposition, in some, to consider them as the remains of a people partially or altogether civilized; and in order to shew that a sufficient time had elapsed for such a people, like some of the Greeks who have sunk into the barbarism of Albanians, to fall back into the condition of the savage tribes first found, by Europeans, to be inhabiting this country, the large forest trees, which had grown up out of those remains, have been felled, and the concentric rings of their trunks counted for the purpose of thus eviscerating from them evidence of the lapse of some hundreds of years since those supposed fortifications had been abandoned. But merely plausible deductions, or bold flights of fancy, however ingenious or striking, cannot be received as matters of history, much less as judicially established truths. (z)

most aged as well as the largest trees, in the northern parts of the United States, belong to the species, *platanus occidentalis*, American plane tree, as it is called in Europe, or the button wood, as it is called in New England, or sycamore, as it is more commonly called in the western and southern states. The largest and most aged trees, indigenous to the southern states, belong to the species *cupresses thyoides*, white cedar, as it is called in New England, or cypress, as it is commonly called at the south.—*Essay on Vegetable Physiology*, by Armstrong, Professor, &c., Washington College, Virg. chap. 6; *The Farmers' Register*, by Ruffin, vol. 7, No. 3.

It would seem that the *pinus lambertiana*, here spoken of, attains as great a size in the valley of the Columbia river as in California, for Mr. Nuttall, in describing a bird called Audubon's wood warbler, says: 'We may notice in this species as a habit, that, unlike many other birds of its tribe, it occasionally frequents trees, particularly the water oaks, and the lower branches of those gigantic firs, which attain not uncommonly a height of two hundred and forty feet.'—*The Birds of America*, by Audubon, 2 vol. 27.

(z) McCulloh's Researches concerning the Aboriginal History of America, Appendix 2.

'The possession of the Wyoming Valley has not been an object of the white man's ambition or cupidity alone. It has been the subject of controversy, and the fierce battle ground of various Indian tribes, within the white man's time, but for his possession; and from the remains of fortifications discovered there, so ancient, that the largest oaks and pines have struck root upon the ramparts, and in the entrenchments, it must once have been the seat of power; and perhaps of a splendid court, thronged by chivalry, and taste, and beauty—of a race of men far different from the Indians, known to us since the discovery of Columbus.'—*1 Stone's Life of Brant*, 319.

Extract of a letter from John Locke, dated Cincinnati, 10th of September, 1338, describing a place called *Fort Hill*, the remains of an ancient fortification in Adams county, in the state of Ohio.

'In the midst of the enclosed table is a pond, which, although it had recently