

CLIFF DWELLERS.

If the Mohawks, in their fierce savagery, exterminated the various Indian tribes of West Virginia, is it not also probable that age after age witnessed contest after contest, war and extermination amongst the nations that dwelt in America? The Mound Builders of West Virginia, whether they were Indians centuries prior to the knowledge of the present age, or whether they were a people further advanced in the arts and possessed a higher degree of civilization and pastoral pursuits, which may seem probable, though the ages have rolled on, covering more deeply and obscurely the mysteries of the past, may there not, after all, be an analogy between the obscurity of the Mound Builders and the Cliff Dwellers?

There may be some reason for the belief that these people, driven from the Mississippi Valley, by more warlike people found temporary shelter, at least, in the great canons, gorges and cliffs cut out by the river of that wonderful country where they dwelt. The advent of the Cliff Dwellers to their lofty abode in the cliffs, their departure or their nationality is as much a mystery as the nativity or the advent of the savage. What may seem to be retributive justice, is that the savage is now being driven and exterminated near the beautiful gorges and valleys where the Cliff Dwellers built their temples to the sun, before their final extermination.

When we speak of a period in the past that is prehistoric and obscure, we associate the time with the biblical chronology of a few thousand years; but when we consider that the word "day" with reference to the creation means an age or a period of time divided into six parts, there can be no discord in relation to science and the Bible. The truth of the Bible as revealed to man has in all the ages of enlightenment been proven by science and discovery. He who would close his eyes to science would be less able to defend the truths of the Bible.

In the limited space which we have to devote to this topic, we quote briefly from the pen of such authorities as Dr. Lund, Prof. McLean and others, whose investigations have led them back to the darker ages of the world from discoveries of human skulls and other parts of the human anatomy, fixing a period as far back as eighty thousand years, and no author gives man's existance in America as less than ten thousand years, or eight thousand years before the birth of Christ.

Geologists go down into the bosom of the earth, and read there the language so plainly written upon the fossils and the rocks with the same accuracy that we estimate the ages of the forest trees by their growth, or the nationality of men by the shape of their skulls.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND INDIAN TROUBLES.

Nearly thirty years elapsed after settlements were planted on the upper waters of the Potomac before the tide of emigration gained sufficient force to cross the Alleghenies and take possession of the valleys of the west. The country