

AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES

AND

RESEARCHES

INTO THE

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE RED RACE.

BY

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NEW-YORK:

DAYTON AND SAXTON,
Corner of Fulton and Nassau-streets.
BOSTON: SAXTON AND PIERCE.
1841.

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broad, composed of clay and broken shells, and moulded on both sides with much smoothness.*

These articles of pottery vary much in their structure. The material is either simply clay—that substance united with pulverized sandstone or calcareous matter—or a composition, as well calculated, as our chemical vessels, to encounter a high degree of heat, and formed upon scientific principles.† Some of them appear to have been painted before burning, are skillfully wrought and polished, well glazed and burned, and are inferior to our own manufactures in no respect. There exist other specimens, of ancient origin, corroborating this view of the chemical knowledge of their authors. At Hamburg, in the state of New York, within an urn in the interior of a mound, curious beads have been found deposited, consisting of transparent green glass, covered with an opaque red enamel, beneath which and in the tube of the bead was a beautiful white enamel, indicative of great art in its formation.‡ On opening an old grave at Big River, in the state of Missouri, whose antiquity was sufficiently attested by a heavy growth of forest trees over the spot, beads of similar shape, appearance and composition have also been brought to light.§

The bricks discovered in the mounds appear to have been formed after the modern method, and are well burnt; those found in the ancient fortifications are of similar construction and appearance, with the exception of possessing a lighter color.

* Trans. Fairfield Co. Med. Soc.

† Schoolcraft's *Mississippi*, p. 202.

‡ Schoolcraft's *View of the Mines and Minerals of the West, &c.* p. 280.

§ *Ibid.* pp. 169, 283.—Beck's *Gazetteer*, p. 261.