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Attention is called to the "Wants" column. All are invited to use it in soliciting information or seeking new positions. The name and address of applicants should be given in full, so that answers will go direct to them. The "Exchange" column is likewise open.

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THE CHEROKEES IN PRE-COLUMBIAN TIMES.

II.

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What has been presented is probably sufficient to convince any unbiassed mind that the Cherokees were mound-builders, nevertheless there is other evidence of a more general character which serves to show that the builders of the East Tennessee and North Carolina mounds were contemporaneous with the authors of the works of other sections.

Proof that in general the mound-builders were Indians would, as a matter of course, have a strong bearing on the case under discussion, but this would require too much space to be introduced here. The following extracts from Major J. W. Powell's article on "Prehistoric Man in America," in the *Forum* of January, 1890, will give what is now becoming the settled conclusion of most of the leading archæologists of the present day:—

"The research of the past ten or fifteen years has put this subject in a proper light. First, the annals of the Columbian epoch have been carefully studied, and it is found that some of the mounds have been constructed in historical time, while early explorers and settlers found many actually

used by tribes of North American Indians: so we know many of them were builders of mounds. Again, hundreds and thousands of these mounds have been carefully examined, and the works of art found therein have been collected and assembled in museums. At the same time, the works of art of the Indian tribes, as they were produced before modification by European culture, have been assembled in the same museums, and the classes of collections have been carefully compared. All this has been done with the greatest painstaking, and the mound-builders' arts and the Indians' arts are found to be substantially identical. No fragment of evidence remains to support the figment of theory that there was an ancient race of mound-builders superior in culture to the North American Indians. . . . It is enough to say that the mound-builders were the Indian tribes discovered by white men."

Once it is admitted that the mound-builders were Indians, it requires much less proof to carry conviction that a particular tribe was accustomed to erect such structures. There are, however, two facts which seem to carry back the Cherokees to the mound-building age, even independently of this general argument.

The first of these to which attention is called is that afforded by a certain class of stone graves or cists found in great numbers in some sections. These cists, usually designated "box-shaped stone graves," are formed of rough unhewn slabs or flat pieces of stone, thus: first, in a pit some two or three feet deep and of the desired dimensions, dug for the purpose, a layer is placed to form the floor; next, similar pieces are set on edge for the sides and ends, over which other slabs are laid flat, forming the covering; the whole, when finished, making a rude box-shaped coffin or sepulchre. Sometimes one or more of the six faces are wanting; occasionally the bottom consists of a layer of water-worn boulders; sometimes the top is not a single layer, but other pieces are laid over the joints; and sometimes they are placed in the fashion of shingles. They vary in length from fourteen inches to eight feet, and in width from nine inches to three feet.

Now, it happens that quite a number of graves of this particular type are found on the site of one of the "Over-hill towns" heretofore mentioned, and others are scattered over parts of the Cherokee district. As the location of those about the village site is such as to justify the belief that they were contemporaneous with the existence of the village, we must conclude that the authors of the graves of this type, and the Cherokees, were contemporaneous. Additional proof of this is found in the seemingly conclusive evidence, which is too lengthy to be introduced here, that the graves of this form found south of the Ohio are due to the Shawnees. The well-known fact that the Cherokees and Shawnees were long hereditary and bitter foes, almost constantly at war with each other, would seem to forbid the above supposition that a Shawnee colony was living in connection with a Cherokee village; yet the following historical items furnish a satisfactory explanation.

Haywood, in his "Natural and Aboriginal History of Tennessee," gives the following statement by Gen. Robertson: "In 1772 the Little Corn-Planter, an intelligent Cherokee chief who was then supposed to be ninety years of age, stated, in giving a history of his own nation, that the Sa-