

your right where the balcony box is found in a modern theater building.

#### Use of the Caves.

These caves were used, according to Greeley, in the ceremony of crowning a chief, and in the secret trial of a chief for cowardice—the only offence punishable by death. The poor victim was privately executed, after conviction, by a jury of his peers, and was buried in an unknown, unmarked grave. These are a few of the remains left in this state by the unknown Aborigines; none of our present Indians can explain them, except in a few instances where they have remembered the tradition. The stone implements are quite common, but the warlike arrow point, knife and tomahawk do not predominate. Several very fine specimens of axes have been found. When I was in Nance County I picked up a flint drill, so small that it will scarcely cover the thumb nail, it is one of the finest specimens of stone work I ever saw. All the specimens show skill and an artistic taste in their construction. I have a number of rocks used as mills—the upper stone—with hand marks deeply worn on the upper side, while the other side shows a surface made by grinding. I have found many valuable specimens near the Roca village which I discovered or at least I am the only one who has explored it and published the account.

#### Shards of Pottery.

But the most interesting specimens found in the Nebraska field, and entirely absent in the Kansas field, (Mr. Brower does not mention the fact, at least, and he has published the very best account of the Kansas field I have seen) are the shards of pottery with cloth impressions on them. These shards are strewn thickly along the banks of many streams, especially around Columbus and Fullerton.

At the Roca village I have found abundance of these shards and a systematic study of pottery in general revealed these facts: The oldest known specimens of black pottery, tempered with quartz pebbles, mica, and pottery shards are found in Scandinavia and date back 2000 years B. C. The pottery found here in the Roca village and also at Columbus and Fullerton corresponds in every minute detail with this early Scandinavian pottery described by Buche, and with no other. The Romans made black ware but it was brittle; these specimens are remarkably well preserved, when we consider that they have withstood the constant cultivation of the fields, where they are found, for thirty years and are still firm and tough. Specimens of this same ware are found in many parts of eastern Nebraska in great abundance.

The cloth impressions are similar to those found on the pottery shards of Missouri, Tennessee, Carolina, New

England, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland and Scotland as well as the early specimens of Scandinavia. I have carefully studied the ethnological reports of the Smithsonian Institution and compared these specimens with the numerous cuts found there and I give above the result of that study. The Zuni pottery is formed by coiling little roles of clay, one on the other, to the desired shape and size, and the tempering is invariably sand. Buche tells us that the Scandinavian pottery was moulded in wicker baskets, lined with cloth (and in some cases, leaves or grass) to keep the clay from sticking to the wicker work, then feebly burned by placing the plastic vessels in a hole in the ground, or in a pile above ground, and piling branches, grass, reeds, etc., around them and over them. This black ware takes its color from the "buffalo chips," used for fuel by these Aborigines in lieu of wood—as they were by the early settlers of the west. These "chips" impart a black color to any clay burned with them, which you may learn by experiment. On some of the specimens found the marks of a hand are plainly visible on the inside, showing that they were made as Buche describes the Scandinavian process. Now in the Kansas field not a single mention is made of cloth impressions on the specimens of pottery found; but from the illustrations in Mr. Brower's memoirs I infer that grass was used instead of cloth, probably because of a lack of this material among the nomadic people. The handles, edges and sides of these vessels were ornamented with geometrical designs by making marks in the plastic clay. In some cases the coarse material of the vessel was coated, inside and out, with a coat of finer clay, which assumes a brownish or bluish tinge when burned and which holds a covering of fine sand on the outside, but the inside coat is pure clay and quite smooth.

These specimens are among the finest ever found in America. They are very unlike the pottery of eastern Iowa, Ohio, or the Zuni pottery of New Mexico, showing that the makers sprang from a very different stock. This pottery forms a very strong link connecting the Aborigines of America with the old world.

#### Proof of Quivera.

Now in the face of these remains found far north of the point reached by Coronado and extending in one unbroken line nearly to the fields which Mr. Brower (and in fact almost every well posted writer on this subject) seems to think is the Coronado field of exploration in 1541, we can but logically conclude that a greater civilization has existed in the Nebraska field than is shown by remains in the Kansas field.

If this were all the evidence we could bring to bear upon the subject we must, even then, conclude that a nation of

people once inhabited this Nebraska field, who were more worthy of a far-reaching fame than were the few nomadic villages explored by Coronado.

But this is not all the evidence; the documentary evidence existing is far more definite and conclusive than any account of the Coronado expedition.

Mr. Brower in his memoirs, Quivera, conclusively establishes the fact that Coronado reached and explored the Kansas field, with which conclusion we heartily agree. In his second volume of memoirs, Harahey, he continues to discuss the same location and Coronado. These works are both very clear and conclusive in the one field; could Mr. Brower have explored farther and covered this Nebraska field, I doubt not he would agree with the tone of these papers. He does not go far enough and there is room now for a new memoir. I can plainly trace evidences shown in both his books of a greater civilization farther north. In a private letter he informs me that so many proofs were discovered after he published Vol. I that he was obliged to publish Vol. II, Harahey. He locates Harahey adjacent to Quivera on the north, from which Coronado summoned the chief, who came with two hundred naked followers with their scalp locks ornamented; this was a common trait among warlike Indians all over America and is noted by many writers.

We shall some day endeavor to present proof that the people of Harahey were the dividing line between the quiet, pastoral people, north, and the more warlike people, south. These people to the south may have been a branch of the same stock; the best authorities call the Wichita Indians the Pawnee pictis or Black Pawnees, and tradition says they branched from the original Pawnee stock many years before the whites knew them.

#### Origin of the Pawnees.

The Pawnee Indians of Nebraska have a tradition that they came from "down" or as some authorities persist in saying, south; this is not true—"down" meant down stream. Another version of the same legend says they came from the "rising sun" and that a branch went south or as the expression "with the Wichitas" in time designated the direction south, it has been so translated. This branch was the Pawnee pictis or Wichitas as Mr. Brower's memoir seems to infer. Their contact with the warlike people caused them to defend themselves and they became warlike from necessity, the frequent wars made them nomadic and as the bison offered easy means of subsistence they followed the natural law and went along the lines of the least resistance.

The Pawnees proper who went north were in a climate too chilly for the naked barbarians to inhabit with comfort so the main branch of the original