

VICTORY.

Once more to the charge and repeat
The fearless, undoubting endeavor,
The grasp of the hands and the spring of the
feet
Unwearied forever.

The wind of the east and the north
Has smitten and stabbed with his knife;
The edict of death has gone forth,
And the issue is life.

Out of March, through the mire and clay,
Over April's brown slope and wet dune,
It shall laugh from the summit of May,
Name its victory "June."

—Arthur Colton in the June Atlantic.

THE LOWE SITE.

Some weeks since, Mr. Morton requested me to make a thorough investigation of a supposed Indian village site, located about five miles southeast of Nebraska City; so, on the 13th day of May, I again enjoyed the delights of Arbor Lodge, and partook of its hospitality. Only those who have personally experienced the beauties of nature, artistically applied, and the cordial welcome so evident at Mr. Morton's beautiful home, can realize the meaning of the above sentence.

The next day we drove to the farm of Mr. William Lowe, and in his company, made a cursory inspection of the whole field, and got the lines of land survey well in mind for a chart of the locality.

During my stay of three days in that locality, I was the guest of Mr. William Lowe and his very estimable wife, who are quite as entertaining and interesting as any other historical feature of the state. Mr. Lowe is 74 years old, and came to this state in 1847. In our walk of two or three miles, I found his activity equal to any young man; from 4 a. m. to 8 p. m., he is constantly on the go—few young men could follow him for a week, and he seems just in the prime of life. He attributes his excellent health and continued youth to the medicinal qualities of a spring near his place, from which he has drunk for sixty years, and to which the Otoes attributed wonderful powers, when they had their camp near it many years ago. Curious, if Ponce de Leon's spring of immortal youth be in Nebraska!

Mr. Lowe claims the honor of setting the second tree ever set in the state, and he has seen orchards of fruit trees grow from the seed; bear the "apples that beat the world," and then die of sheer old age. There is real truth as well as poetry in the above, as Mr. Lowe raised the apples, which, at the Centennial Exposition in 1876, really "beat the world"—they took the prize in the world's fruit display, and drew the attention of the public to Nebraska as the best fruit producing country in the world.

Not ten rods from the spot where grew these magnificent apples, as charmed and charming as the fabled "Golden Apples of Hesperides," is the most northern lodge circle, discovered in

the Lowe site; located on the very crown of the high bluffs overlooking the Missouri, a mile or more away and giving full command of a wide tract of bottom, land, which reaches to the very base of the bluffs a few rods east of these lodge circles, but at least 200 feet lower.

There are seven circles in this group, still well defined, although the land has been in orchard and cultivation for fifty years or more. Mr. Lowe found these circles when he first came to the state, but the settlers, as they came in, called them "buffalo wallows," and so they are considered by most people to this day. While digging a well near his house some years ago, Mr. Lowe came to bed of charcoal and ashes at a depth of four or five feet. No indications were apparent on the surface, and he thought it strange that ashes should be found at that depth on the high bluff. From time to time he has picked up potshards and flints from the surface, and he began to observe and study these curious, circular "buffalo wallows." The Otoes lived in the valley below his house for many years, but they knew nothing of these curious circles, and soon took the same view of them as the whites. Had it not been for the finding of potshards and charcoal in digging that well, they may have remained "buffalo wallows" to the end.

Some years ago Mr. Lowe found pottery while digging a grave a few miles north of his place; there was no evidence on the surface, but at a depth of about five feet, he came to an ash heap and some pieces of earthenware, which had on the surface some curious decorations like letters or hieroglyphics, but these specimens are lost unless they be in the museum at Crete. I would like very much to study the decorations if they can be found.

These circles were in much the same condition when Mr. Lowe first found them, as they are today; they are about thirty feet in diameter, and the ridge on the outside is about a foot higher than the surrounding surface, while the center is depressed about two or two and a half feet below the highest points of the outer circle. This group is arranged along the highest points of the bluff for a distance of nearly half a mile. There are three circles together at the north end and three together at the south end, with one about half way between the two extremities. Of the south group, I opened the middle circle, about 4 feet wide by 7 feet long, to a depth of 4 feet from the surface level. Every shovel of earth, after the first foot deep, was carefully looked over. I used a small box, and passed the earth from hand to hand. Every shovel full yielded, on an average, one piece of pottery or one chipped flint. The pottery is the exact type found in the Roca site, and also at the Ancient site near Fullerton. It has the cloth impression on the out-

side and is tempered with quartz-pebbles, mica and potshards. It looks like a part of the Roca site collection. Intermixed with this pottery is also a smooth pottery not having the cloth impressions, but decorated with a notched stick and tempered with fine sand; it is similar to the specimens found on the recent Pawnee site (on low ground) at the mouth of Horse creek, northwest of Fullerton.

Innumerable flint chips abound, many so fine that nothing short of sluicing the dirt will reveal them. Three almost perfect arrow points were found, made of the Kansas blue chert, as are all the flint chips discovered. All these points are of the same type, being shaped like the point of a table knife if it be broken off about two inches long. There are no notches whereby to fasten them to a shaft, and may, in time, be classed as an agricultural implement rather than a war-like weapon.

I brought a quantity of the earth home with me, and have sluiced it very carefully. This earth came from the floor of the lodge, near where the fireplace was located. This fireplace was indicated by a mass of ashes three inches thick, while the earth was burned to the color of a brick for a depth of twelve inches below the ashes. The floor from which I took the earth can be traced by a dark colored line on a level with the ashes, or, possibly, a little higher, as the fireplace seems to be hollowed out slightly. I found nothing of note in the earth which I sluiced, except a few grains of powdered pottery, many flint chips and a small piece of bone, which is quite hard, but shows no signs of petrification nor the slightest trace of decay. Could the whole circle be excavated and sluiced, something more definite might be learned. I have marked one of a pair of oak trees standing on the very brow of the bluff, not far east of the circle opened: "Lowe '01. B." This will serve to identify the site.

Nearly a mile southwest of this group of circles and back from the river so far that the bottom land can not be seen, but still on the highest point of the surrounding surface, we found two more lodge circles, similar in every respect to the one I had excavated, possibly, a little deeper. These two circles are on land but recently cleared of timber, and have just been discovered.

I excavated the center of one of these to a depth of four feet, and came to a heap of charcoal and ashes. Out of this excavation (4 feet square), I took but nine specimens of the pottery, which is like the Roca pottery and none of the smooth, recent kind. I found one flint chipped to a rounded point like the flints found in the other circle I excavated, but this is more rude; very few chips of flint were found.

A number of pieces of flat rock simi-