Aboriginal Traces.

broken earthen, &c; but no opportunity was afforded to the author to examine their structure. Most of them have been plowed down, but a few are said to remain on the west side of the Perch Lake in their primitive state. In Houndsfield, on the shore of Black River Bay, between Muskellunge Creek and Starrs* Harbor, is said to have existed formerly a trench enclosure of the ordinary form. We have not learned whether it is wholly or in part preserved, nor is its extent known. Some of the largest trees of the forest grew upon and within the bank. In Watertown, on lot No. 29, about two and a half miles south-west from the village, may still be seen in an open wood, and in a fine state of preservation, the outline of a work consisting of a bank thrown up from a surrounding ditch, and evidently intended as a defensive work. It is on the summit of a gradually sloping terrace of Trenton Limestone, and commands a delightful prospect. Elms, three feet in diameter, are found growing upon the bank, and the decaying remains of others still larger, within and upon it, carry back the date of its construction to an ante-Columbian period. In the same range and lot, on premises owned by Anson Hungerford, Esq., and about forty, rods east, there was formerly another enclosure, with gateways, the position and extent of which cannot now be ascertained, as the bank has long since been leveled by cultivation. The one first mentioned, is semicircular, the open side facing upon the bank.* Half a mile east of Burrville, on lot No. 31, was formerly a defensive work, consisting of a mound and ditch, running across a point between two streams near their junction, and forming by the aid of the natural banks a triangular enclosure. The plow has long ago filled the ditch and leveled the bank; leaving no trace of the work. The soil has afforded a great abundance and variety of relics, and the vicinity indicates that it had been occupied as an Indian village. Within the enclosure is a boulder of gneiss, worn smooth and concave in places by the grinding of stone implements. On a point of land opposite, the author found an iron ball weighing eight ounces, and others have been picked up in the vicinity, indicating that the place must have been passed, at least, by those who knew the use of small ordnance, probably the French, on some of their expeditions against the Iroquois! Mr. Squier, in his work on the ancient monuments of New York, mentions the trace of an Indian village a mile north-east of this.

Near Appling post office, on the land of D. Talcott, in Adams, near the line of Watertown, is still to be seen the trace of a

*Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, vol. II, art. vi, p. 20, fig. 2, pi. 2. See also N. Y. Senate Document No. 30, 1851, p. 105, plate 7. These plates are from independent surveys but are very similar.