

mammoth and other animals, in the loam, proving that the paleolithic hunter in the upper Rhine possessed a skull of the long type. In the following year in the valley of the Seine, a human skull and bones were obtained by M. Eugene Bertrand from a gravel pit, underneath undisturbed strata of loam, sand, and gravel, at a depth of 5.45 metres, along with the mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, horse, ox, and stag."

The men of the Stone Age in Europe have been divided into "Men of the River Drift," and "Men of the Caves."

Man of the River Drift was a poor nomad hunter, poorly equipped for the struggle of life, with no knowledge of metals, or even of grinding his stone weapons.

Boyd-Dawkins describes some interesting deposits in the old gravels of the river Wily, in Wiltshire, near Salisbury, 100 feet above the river's present bed, where, with the rudest forms of stone weapons, are found many bones of mammalia.

He says :

"In the spring, summer, and autumn, there were stags, bisons, uri, horses, pouched marmosets, woolly rhinoceroses, and mammoths, and in the depth of winter, lemmings, reindeer, and musk sheep. Wild boars were in the woodlands and hares in the glades. The hunter had, however, formidable beasts of prey,

the lion and the spotted hyæna, as his competitors in the chase."

Traces of man in this stage with only the very rudest implements have, as I pointed out in my last paper, been found in great abundance in South Africa. Indeed, man in this stage was spread over vast portions of the globe, and existed in this condition for a very great length of time, a greater length of time probably than all the subsequent stages of his existence put together. We are unable to refer the men of this time to any branch of the human race now living, and they are as extinct in Asia as in Europe, as extinct as their contemporary, the woolly-haired rhinoceros.

The Cave Men, found in old buried rock shelters throughout Europe, used stone implements of a more advanced type than the old hunters of the river drift. These caves and shelters in the rocks were probably places of periodic resort, similar to certain resorts used by the Eskimos in certain seasons of the year at the present day.

Many of the Bushmen caves of this country are splendid examples of what, with a few trifling modifications, the caves of the ancient cave-dwellers were like; and from these Bushmen caves some good specimens of the higher types of stone weapons have been obtained. Dr. Kannemeyer, of Burghersdorp, has an excellent collection. Some striking

carvings on bones and ivory have been obtained from the old European caves, and we all know the Bushman's passion for drawing and even painting on the rocks the various animals with which he was surrounded. At Klipfontein, a farm owned by the Hon. William Ross on the Vaal River, are some wonderful carvings on the rocks round the fountain. I was able readily to recognise the elephant, ostrich, giraffe, wildebeeste, hartebeeste, blesbok and koodoo, all cut out on the solid rock.

From the River Drift and Cave Men we pass on to the men of the *Neolithic* Age ; that is, men using highly polished stone weapons, appearing after Britain was separated from the Continent, and bringing with them some live stock and some knowledge of cultivation. In this age, also, we find the shell mounds in Denmark, and the lake dwellings in Switzerland, both phases of life represented in Africa. Round the coast of South Africa we have numerous shell mounds, partially buried, and undoubtedly old habitations, containing, at any rate in some cases which I carefully explored, and described in my last paper, polished stones used in dressing skins, ashes, split bones, and other unmistakable evidence of human origin. Again, in some of the lake regions of the interior of Africa are found tribes living in lake dwellings, constructed on piles driven into the lake bottom, almost identical

with the ancient lake dwellings of Switzerland. In the Neolithic Age in Britain, and on the Continent, men first adopted the custom of burying their dead, and from the old barrows or tombs of that age human skeletons of a distinct type and in considerable numbers are found. They are skeletons of men of small stature, averaging about five feet three inches in height, with long, or what is known as the "dolicocephalic," type of skull. Numbers of these skeletons have been investigated by Thurnam, Huxley, Burk, Virchow, and others, and they have come to the conclusion that the race to which they belong is still to be numbered among the living races of Europe. There can be little doubt from examination of numbers of skeletons from Basque cemeteries that they are identical with the Iberian race of history,—a race most nearly represented to-day by the Basque tribes dwelling in and near the Pyrenees. This identification by Huxley and others of the neolithic with the Basque races has received most interesting and unexpected support from the philological researches of the Abbé Inchauspé into the dialects of the Pyrenees. He points out that the Basque names for cutting tools are as follows:—

Axe is *aizcora*; composed of *aitz-aitza*, a stone; *gora*, high, lifted up; pick is *aizurra*, *aitz*, and *urra* to tear in sunder, that is, a stone to tear in sunder the earth; knife is *aizttoa*—*aitz*, and *ttoa* little, little stone.

Thus, where the anatomical evidence as to the identity of the race is strongest, or where the aboriginal population is presumably in its greatest purity, distinct traces of the Stone Age are found in the language.

After the Iberic came the Celtic race, and with the Celtic race came the bronze weapons, the Celts driving out or subduing the old Iberic races in Gaul, Spain, and, finally, in Britain. In all these countries weapons of the Bronze Age, a comparatively short era, are found. The typical weapon of the Bronze Age is the axe. During this age the axe, so important in the dawn of civilisation, went through three stages. The first was that in which the axe was simply let as a wedge into the handle. Of this type we have a splendid example in the iron axes used by the Mashonas to-day. In the second stage, a flange was fashioned on the axe to minimise the splitting effect on the handle. The third stage is that where the handle is let into the head as in the modern axe. This was developed in the Iron Age in Europe.

To the Bronze Age belong the circular stone temples found at Stonehenge, in Wiltshire, and scattered over Europe and Asia. After the Bronze came the Iron Age, extending over the later portion of pre-historic and the whole of historic times.

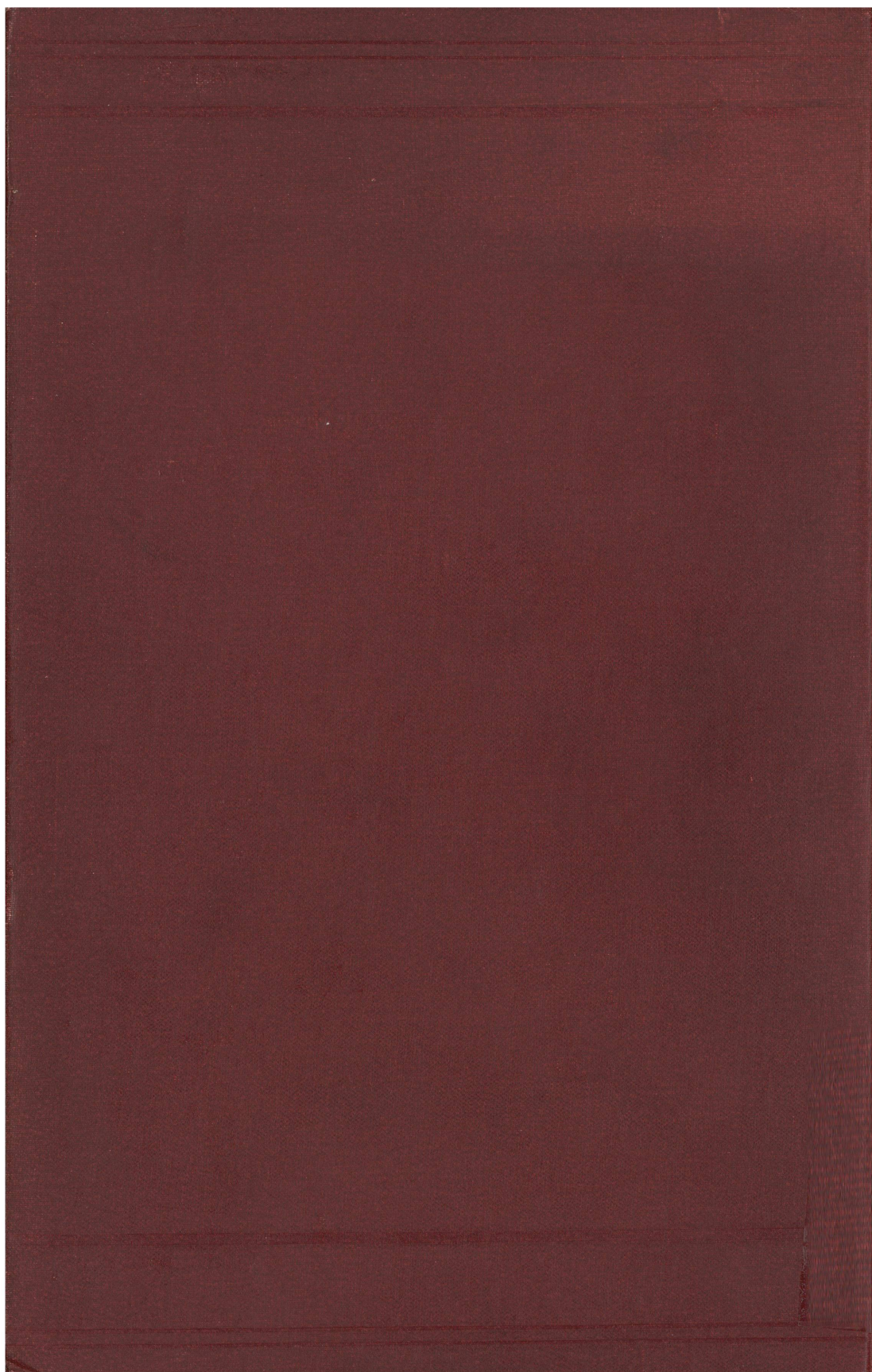
During the heroic age in Greece iron was still

a rare metal, and Homer describes his heroes as fighting with weapons of bronze. In the time of Hesiod, who lived 850 B.C., iron had superseded bronze, though bronze long remained in use for helmets and shields, and remains to-day for ornamental purposes. Overlapping the pre-historic ages in Northern Europe were the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Assyria, Etruria, Phœnicia and Greece. How ancient these civilisations are we sometimes overlook. The history of Egypt begins with the reign of Menes about 4,000 B.C., and is thus more than three times as old as that of Britain. The modernness of the dominant races of the earth to-day is ably described by Boyd-Dawkins, who says: "When we reflect that the history of Gaul begins in the seventh, and that of Britain in the first century before Christ, and when we consider further that the civilisation of Egypt dates back to more than 4,000 B.C., it must appear obvious that the historical overlap is very great. It is very probable that a large portion of northern Europe was in the Neolithic Age, while the scribes were compiling their records in the great cities on the banks of the Nile, and that the neolithic civilisation lingered in remote regions while the voice of Pericles was heard in Athens, or the name of Hannibal was a terror in Italy."

It is of great interest that the latest ruins discovered in South Africa, namely, those of Zimbabwe,

recently explored by Mr. Bent, are believed to belong to one of these ancient civilisations, probably the Assyrian or Phœnician, and the fact goes far to establish the theory that in Mashonaland we have the Ophir of the Old Testament.

The whole continent of Africa undoubtedly possesses the most interesting facts in connection with the study of the origin and history of man's existence on the earth, and illustrates most strikingly the parallelism of the lines of development in the early stages of his existence. There are traces of men of the River Drift Age, Cave-dwellers and Lake-dwellers, the Shell Mound, and early Iron Ages, all to be found in Africa. And indeed there are still races living who to-day are cave-dwellers, as some of the Bushmen ; certain central African tribes who are lake-dwellers—and the interior Bantu tribes who are in the early Iron Age. The historical overlap in Africa is greater than anywhere else, for, while it possesses the oldest civilisation and history in Egypt, there still linger in the south and central regions those pigmy races, the lowest known type of humanity, only just emerging from the Stone Age.



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