

wood ; the bone awls and needles ; and the strong traps, where steel was replaced by toughened sinews. Baskets were so closely and carefully plaited as to become water-tight, and serve as buckets. Some progress had been made in the textile arts, for blankets were woven which Mr. Anderson speaks of as "veritable works of art," those of the more northern tribes having a pattern closely resembling one familiar in ancient Egypt. The colours were usually red and black. The art of dressing skins was particularly well understood. The men had gone far beyond the stage of fastening skins with thorns ; the softly dressed leather was fashioned into tunics, trousers, caps, and mocassins, sewn together with bone needles, with sinews for thread. The women rejoiced in a kind of petticoat I never heard of elsewhere. They kept a breed of dogs with long silky hair. Long fringes were made of this hair, and twisted round and round the body and limbs, reaching as far as the knee. With the introduction of English woollen goods, this breed of dogs has been allowed to die out.

The people were by no means without amusements. Dancing of an amazingly vigorous kind took a leading place. There were horse-racing and canoe-racing ; feasts amongst the men, and foot races between the boys ; long yarns of story-telling over camp-fires, and not a little gambling. So one may hope the cave-dwellers in Europe may also have had their amusements, and that their life was not necessarily so dismal as we are apt to imagine it.

Courtship and marriage were simply managed affairs. The enamoured swain merely went to the lodge of the object of his affections, and stared at her in speechless admiration for a day or two. He would then make an offer of some object of value, a horse or a canoe, to the girl's father, and, the offer being accepted, led his bride without further ado to his own tent, and they were considered man and wife. Conjugal infidelity seems to have been rare before the coming of the whites. I have seen a rustic courtship in Suffolk carried on with much the same commendable silence as in British Columbia. Indeed, one Suffolk wooer, after some hours of silence in the company of his beloved, was surprised into articulate expression, and uttered these remarkable words (on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle) : "How fast the time *du* pass when folks is a-laughin' and talkin' !"

One or two customs remind one of Central Europe and Asia at this day. MacGahan, in his "Campaigning on the Oxus," speaks of his surprise at seeing smoke coming apparently out of the depths of the earth on the snow-covered steppes, whose inhabitants were thus