

peculiar shape, and formed of copper, which was found in the hard black till-clay at a depth of twenty feet under Ratho Bog, near Edinburgh. This is no solitary example. The Scottish Museum of Antiquities has other implements of pure copper; and Sir William Wilde states in reference to the collections of the Royal Irish Academy, "upon careful examination, it has been found that thirty of the rudest, and apparently the very oldest cells, are of red, almost unalloyed copper;" as is also the case with some other rudely formed tools in the same collection.

It was a temporary advantage, doubtless, but a real loss, to the Indian miners of Lake Superior that they found the native copper there ready to hand, a pure ductile metal, probably regarded by them as only a variety of stone which—unlike its rocky matrix,—they could bend, or hammer into shape, without fracture. Its value as such was widely appreciated. The copper tools, every where retaining the specks, or larger crystals of silver, characteristic of the Lake Superior veins, tell of the diffusion of the metal from that single source throughout all the vast regions watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries, and eastward by lake and river to the gulf of the St. Lawrence and the mouth of the Hudson.

There was a time when this traffic must have been systematically carried on; when the ancient miners of Lake Superior worked its rich coppers veins with industrious zeal; and when, probably as part of the same aggressive energy, the valley of the Ohio was filling with a settled population; its great earthworks were in process of construction, and a native race entered on a course that gave promise of social progress. But, from whatever cause, the work of the old miners was abruptly terminated; * the race of the Mounds vanished from the scenes of their ingenious toil; and rudest barbarism resumed its sway over the whole northern continent. The same Aryan race that, before the dawn of history; before the Sanskrit-speaking people of India, or the Zends of Persia, entered on their southern homes; spoke in its own cradle-land, on the high plateau of Central Asia, the mother tongue of Sanskrit, Greek, Celtic, and German, at length broke up, and went forth on its long wanderings. It crossed the old continent, and in successive detachments, wave after wave, of Celts, Romans, Greeks, Slaves, and Teutons, broke in upon the barbarism of prehistoric Europe; displaced the older races, Allophylian, Neolithic, Iberian, Finnic, or by whatever other name we may find it convenient to designate them; but not without a certain amount of intermingling of the old blood with that of the intruders. The sparsely settled continent gradually filled up. Forests were cleared, swamps drained, rivers confined by artificial banks and levées to their channels; and there grew up in their new home the Celtic, Classic, Slavic, and Teutonic tongues, with all the richly varied culture and civilization which they represent. Agriculture, the special characteristic of the whole Aryan race, flourished. They brought with them the cereals from their ancestral home; and, with plenty, the favoured race multiplied, till at length it has grown straitened within the bounds of the continent which it had made its own.

With the close of the 15th century one great cycle, that of Europe's mediæval era, came to an end; and then we trace the first beginnings of that fresh scattering of the Aryan clan, and its new western movement across the Ocean. It seems to me in a very striking manner once more to repeat itself under our own eyes, as we look abroad on the millions crowding in from Europe, hewing down the forests, filling up the waste prairies, and dis-

* Prehistoric Man, 3rd ed. vol. i, pp. 203-228.