

its extinction ; as well as to the order of a succession of events in the prehistoric dawn. Indications of the presence of man must be looked for as following in natural sequence to the geological reconstruction of specific areas, and their evidences of climatic changes in the post-glacial period. Sir John Lubbock remarks in his "Prehistoric Times," when referring to the *Cervus megaceros* : "Though there is no longer any doubt that this species coexisted with man, the evidence of this has been obtained from the bone-caves, and from strata belonging to the age of the river-drift gravels. No remains of the Irish elk have yet been found in association with bronze ; nor indeed are we aware of any which can be referred to the later, or Neolithic Age." When the subject was under discussion at the meeting of the British Association at Dublin, Professor W. G. Adams affirmed most definitely the co-existence of palæolithic man and the fossil elk ; while admitting the absence of any such evidence where the remains of the latter are now found in greatest abundance. "There is," he said, "no evidence that in Ireland man existed contemporary with the *Megaceros*, or had any thing to do with its extinction ; whereas we have authentic evidences of the coexistence of man with this animal in England."

This conclusion, however consistent with the proofs thus far obtained, cannot as yet be recognized as one so absolutely settled as to render further research superfluous. Whistles formed of phalanges of the reindeer are among the most characteristic implements of the more ancient French caves ; and one found by M. E. Piette, in 1871, along with various flint implements, in the Cavern of Gourdan (Haute-Garonne), pierced not only with a mouth-piece, but with finger-holes along the sides, is aptly described by him as a neolithic flute. There is nothing therefore in the mere design or workmanship of the primitive Irish lyre incompatible with its execution at the period when the Irish elk survived ; if it can be shown that it was coeval with man in Ireland. Professor Boyd Dawkins when drawing attention to the fact that out of 48 well ascertained species living in the palæolithic period, only 31 are found surviving into the neolithic period, adds : "The cave bear, cave lion, and cave hyæna had vanished away, along with a whole group of pachyderms ; and of all the extinct animals, but one, the Irish elk, still survived." There is indeed something peculiar and exceptional in this magnificent deer which so specially claims a place among the extinct mam-