

the best and surest course for the early development of the great mineral wealth with which God has blessed her.

Iron is perhaps the Almighty's greatest metallurgical gift to man. Its use can be traced to the very earliest ages. Biblical and secular history abound with mention of the use of iron by the forerunners of our race. Tubal-cain, born in the seventh generation from Adam, is described in the 4th Chapter of Genesis as "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron."

In the time of Moses, the Egyptians seem to have been engaged in the manufacture of iron, as referred to in the 4th chapter of Deuteronomy, 20th verse: "But the Lord hath taken you and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt." This expression again occurs in 1. Kings, viii. and 51.

Swank, in his admirable "Iron in all ages," says: "The Egyptians, whose existence as a nation probably dates from the second generation after Noah, and whose civilization is the most ancient of which we have any knowledge, were at an early period familiar with the use and manufacture of iron. Iron tools are mentioned by Herodotus as having been used in the construction of the pyramids. In the sepulchres of Thebes and Memphis, cities of such great antiquity that their origin is lost, butchers are represented as using tools which antiquarians decided have been made of iron and steel. Iron sickles are also pictured in the tombs of Memphis and Thebes, and various articles of iron have been found, which are preserved by the New York Historical Society, and are probably three thousand years old.

Herodotus in the 5th Century before Christ speaks of the Chalybians as "a people of iron workers."

The Persians and their northern neighbors, the Medes, made iron and steel long before the Christian era, and so did the Parthians and other Scythian tribes.

Ages ago Damascus, the capital of Syria, manufactured its famous swords from Indian and Persian steel.

It may be assumed as susceptible of abundant proof that the knowledge of iron, if not of its manufacture, was common to the people of Africa long previous to the Christian era. The