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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—NATURAL FACTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DELUGE.

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(*Second Article.*)

WE have seen in the previous article that, while it is reasonable to suppose that some record or tradition should be preserved among men as to a catastrophe so terrible and extensive as the great subsidence which terminated the earlier human period, such records or reminiscences might remain in different forms among peoples in different stages of culture. They might even have to be trusted to the dangers of oral transmission until post-diluvian men had acquired means to record them more permanently.

Unwritten traditions have been said to be as perishable as footprints on the sand; but geologists know that footprints, when covered up and preserved in layers of rock, may endure forever. So it is with traditions. Perishable in themselves, they may, so to speak, be fossilized in the form of folk-lore stories or rimes, or may be so connected with permanent local facts or features as to become very permanent. But even illiterate tribes of men have known how to preserve history by knotted cords, like those of Peru, or by wampum belts, like those of North America, or by rude pictographs representing remarkable events. One of the latter, found in a Paleolithic cavern in France, may actually record the approach of an inundation, for it represents a man carrying a burden on his shoulder and retreating from the water in which swims a great fish, while in front are the heads of wild horses which may have escaped in advance of him.*

Archeological investigation has now, however, actually traced back the art of writing in the forms of the arrow-headed syllabary of Chaldea

* Christy and Lartet—" *Reliquiæ Aquitanicæ*," and reproduced in the author's work, "Fossil Men."