

interesting sketch of the manners and customs of modern savages, contained in chapters xiv.—xvi. of his "Prehistoric Times."

What then are the characteristics which separate modern savages from the lower animals? They are three in number, viz.: the faculty of making and using tools, the use of fire,* and last, but not least, articulate speech. We have already seen that the earliest human beings of whose existence we have positive evidence, the contemporaries of the mammoth, were, like the lowest of modern savages, tool-makers and tool-users. Traces of their use of fire have been discovered at the lowest depths and in conjunction with some of the most ancient remains in many caves of Great Britain, according to Mr. W. Boyd Dawkins.† How stands the case then with regard to the third point, the capacity for articulate speech? Leaving the use of fire out of the question, and confining ourselves to the first and third points, the argument may be stated in syllogistic form as follows:—

- (i) All tool-makers and tool-users are capable of articulate speech;
- (ii) The first men of whom we have remains were tool-makers and tool-users; therefore
- (iii) The first men were capable of articulate speech.

As, however, we know of no case of the direct invention of language, it remains to be seen whether there is anything in the nature of language to make its direct invention by creatures of such limited mental capacity, as the first men may be assumed to have been, an impossibility or even improbability.

Before, however, we enter upon the discussion of this question, there is another to be answered. We have already seen what manner of men the primitive language-makers, in all probability, were. Let us next inquire *why* they spoke at all—what interests gave them the first impulse to the invention of speech.

This motive is contained in the definition of language given above, as "the intelligible expression of thought in articulate sound *as a*

* Alvaro de Saavedra, as quoted by Lubbock, *op. cit.*, p. 547, mentions a race of savages who were ignorant of fire; and Captain Wilkes, U. S. N., made the same statement of the inhabitants of the island of Fakaofu. The latter statement, however, is questioned by Mr. Taylor (Early History of Mankind, p. 230), on the ground that their language contains a word for "fire." It should be added that some Australian tribes are unable to produce fire, though not ignorant of its use.

† Cave-Hunting, chap. viii.