

ancient Ireland. The skulls and bones of the *Bos longifrons*, tell in Britain of relics pertaining to an era not later than the Roman times; and the ornamented tusks of the Wild Boar, the bones of the Brown Bear, the teeth and skulls of the Beaver (*Castor Europæus*.) the carvings wrought from the Walrus ivory, the skates formed from the metatarsal and metacarpal bones of the Red Deer and small native Horse; with numerous kindred relics of palæontology within the era of the occupation of the British Islands by man: all serve to assign approximate dates to the examples of his ancient arts which they accompany. Thus within the historic period, as in geological eras prior to the creation of man, the progress of time is recorded by the extinction of races. His advent on our earth was speedily marked by the disappearance of numerous groups of ancient life which pertain to that transition era where geology closes and archæology begins. So also the intrusion of the Roman into Britain is recorded in the extinction of many of its ancient fauna; even as the progress of the European colonist of the New World inevitably involves not only the disappearance of the wild animals which haunt its forests, but also of the Aborigines who made of them a prey.

But while the remains of extinct species thus serve—like the graven Roman or runic inscriptions on the sepulchral slab,—to fix the dates at which certain eras had their close, other accompanying objects, and chiefly the traces of living or extinct fauna, are no less valuable as fixing the geographical origin of the colonists of ancient areas, amid whose relics they are found; just as the elephants, the camels, the monkeys, and baboons, of the Nimrod Obelisk, or the corresponding sculptures on the walls of Memphis or Luxor: serve to indicate the countries whence tribute was brought, or captives were carried off, to aggrandise the Assyrian or Egyptian conquerors. Among such relics, which serve to fix the geographical centres of ancient arts, the sources of early commerce, or the birth-places of migrating races, might be noted the tin and amber of the Old, and the copper of the New World. So also in minuter analysis, we recognise among primitive American relics the local origin of various favourite materials: as the Mexican obsidian, the clay slate of the Babeens, and the favourite red pipe-stone of the *Couteau des prairies*. But it is to a more widely diffused and greatly varied class of natural products that I now refer, alike in their bearings on the chronological and geographical relations of ancient and living races, and on