

possibly future discoveries may place upon a more solid foundation the visionary structure that I have ventured to erect.'

THE NEOLITHIC AGE.

Sir John then went on to speak at length of the neolithic age as follows:— 'So far as I know, we have as yet no trustworthy evidence of any transition from the one age to the other and the gulf between them remains practically unabridged. We can indeed hardly name the part of the world in which to seek for the cradle of neolithic civilization, though we know that traces of what appeared to have been a stone using people have been discovered in Egypt, and that what must be among the latest of the relics of their industry have been assigned to a date some three thousand five hundred or four thousand years before our era. The men of that time had attained to the highest degree of skill in working flint that has ever been reached. Their beautifully made knives and spearheads seem indicative of a culminating point reached after long ages of experience; but whence these artists in flint came or who they were is at present absolutely unknown and their handiwork affords no clue to help us in tracing their origin. Taking a wider survey we may say that generally speaking, not only the fauna but the surface configuration of the country were, in western Europe at all events much the same at the commencement of the neolithic period as they are at the present day. We have, too, no geological indications to aid us in forming any chronological scale.

He then made an eloquent reference to the advances made in various department of science since last the association met in Canada; among these were spectrums, analysis, the origin and nature of celestial bodies, photography, the connection between heat, light and electricity, terrestrial magnetism, the liquification and solidification of gases, the behaviour of elements and compounds under the influence of extreme

cold, the nature and uses of the Roentgen rays and the advances in bacteriology and in prophylactic medicine.

Sir John concluded his exhaustive address with this eloquent prophecy of the future; 'Year after year advances will be made in science and in reading that book of nature that lies ever open before our eyes; successive stones will be brought for building up that temple of knowledge of which our fathers and we have labored to lay the foundations.'

The vote of thanks to the new president for his address was eloquently tendered by Lord Aberdeen, seconded by Lord Kelvin, and supported by Mayor Shaw.

The thanks of the audience having been formally conveyed to him, Sir John Evans in replying expressed his satisfaction that in the Jubilee year the association meet should be held in the greatest appendage to the Empire.— [*Montreal Witness.*]

LILIES OF THE VALLEY.

BY ETHEL M. JAMES.

How their fragrance floats around me,
As I stand alone to-night,
Coming from the shrubbery yonder,
Bringing dreams of joy and light.

From the distance comes the echo
Of a voice that's heard no more;
Comes it in the fading twilight,
From some far, celestial shore.
And I gaze around me quickly.—
'Tis the lilies' fragrance sweet,
That has brought the past so happy,
And has laid it at my feet.

All around those flowers blossom,
As they did in days gone by;
And the breezes off the river,
Come, then pass me with a sigh.
Memories dead, and long forgotten,
Crowd around me here to-night,
As the zephyrs of the evening
Sway the lilies pure and white.

The silence of the place was like a sleep so full of rest it seemed.