

likely to make his plug out of the same material as his boat.

It is to the alluvial clays, gravels and other drift material filling the valleys of the different rivers throughout Europe and America that we owe most of our knowledge of man in the earlier stages of his career. Lakes, estuaries and the sea-coast have each contributed a little towards our store of information, but not to such an extent as the drift filled valleys of ancient rivers. It is, therefore, to these ancient valleys we must look for the earliest records of commerce, and consequently of civilization.

Nearly all great movements in the history of man have taken place along the courses of large streams. In our own times we find this to be the case. A new people entering a country naturally settle upon the coast and river valleys first. In America we find the white race settling first upon the sea-coast, next gradually pushing their way along the courses of the great rivers, the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Mississippi and others, and finally when they have obtained the complete control of these highways, they push back into the country. This course is useful to settlers in two ways,—in providing security for themselves in the event of disaster in their intercourse with the natives, and also in providing a means of outlet for their products, navigation being looked upon as essential to their commercial prosperity.

As is the case now, so it was in the prehistoric ages. The rivers of Scotland, England, France and Italy, in Europe, and the Mississippi, Ohio, Hudson, and St. Lawrence all give conclusive evidence that primitive man was perfectly acquainted with the value of water as a means of transportation. When man first made his appearance in Europe, the principal rivers stood at a much higher elevation than at present. They had not then cut the deep channels through which they now run, and what is now the vale of Clyde, with a river running through it, was then an estuary of the sea.

Considering the numerous facilities for water carriage on the American Continent, it would be somewhat surprising if the prehistoric inhabitant had not used that means to move from place to place, as his roving nature might prompt him.

M. Joly, in a recent publication, "Man before Metals," says : "It is impossible to doubt that the first attempts at navigation date from the Archaeolithic Age, when we find buried twenty or thirty