

shape, and bearing what are known as palæolithic characteristics, and that they greatly exceed, in number at least, and probably also in antiquity, any remains of human bones yet discovered. These data may seem very meagre ones from which to draw any valid conclusion as to the intellectual, moral and social condition of these first tool-makers. But it is in the solution of this problem that the science of primitive culture, in the hands of such men as Sir John Lubbock and Professor Wilson, has achieved its greatest triumphs, and been raised to the rank of an inductive science. The archaeologists have pointed out that primitive man, so far from being extinct, and known only by his remains, still occupies a considerable portion of the habitable globe, and that "primitive" is synonymous with "savage." They have applied the comparative method, which has produced such wonderful results in the study of language, to their own science, and have inferred the condition of the first men from the phenomena actually observable among existing savage races, many of them still in the palæolithic stage, manufacturing and using tools which are exact reproductions for the most part of those found with the remains of extinct mammalia. Sir John Lubbock* pictures primeval man as ignorant of pottery, spinning and agriculture, having no domestic animals, perhaps not even the dog, unable to count to ten, "his weapons of the rudest character, and his houses scarcely worthy of the name." As to his moral condition, we may add that he was probably destitute of all religious ideas, or of any conception of a future state, and that he was in some cases, though exceptionally, a cannibal. As to his social state, he was certainly gregarious, living in communities of greater or less extent. In fact, he was a savage, wretched indeed, clad in skins and living by the uncultivated products of the earth and the spoils of the chase, hunting the lower animals with most rudimentary weapons of stone, bone, flint, &c.; his wants few, but pressing, and dictated by hunger, thirst and cold.

The picture is dark enough, yet not too dark to be a faithful representation of many savage races at the present day: The Hottentots and Bushmen of Africa, the Veddahs and Andaman Islanders of Asia, the Australians and Feejeeans of Australasia, the Esquimaux and Nootka-Columbians of our own northern half-continent, the Brazilians, Patagonians and Fuegians of South America. Of this any one may satisfy himself by a glance at Sir John Lubbock's most

* Prehistoric Times, 2nd ed., ch: xvi.