

One great lesson we of these modern days might learn from those primitive peoples, is patience. The time they occupied in fashioning and decorating their implements out of the hardest of stones, must have been considerable, and modern examples might be adduced to show that the more elaborately finished articles were the work of several lives.

A modern explorer among the Pacific group of New Britain, describes the making of a stone implement thus : the native takes a piece of granite which he places in a slow fire of coconut shells, which gives an immense heat and allows it to become red hot. He then by the aid of a split bamboo, in the place of tongs, removes it from the fire and begins to drop water upon it drop by drop, each drop falling exactly upon the same place. That portion of the stone on which the water falls begins to crack and fly off until the heat is gone out of the stone. He then repeats the operation until an irregular hole is formed through the centre. He then fixes a stick through it and takes it to a large granite rock in which is a dint like a small basin ; he hits the stone on the rock until all the rough corners are knocked off and it is worn fairly round ; then takes the end of the stick and pressing the stone down into the hollow of the rock, makes the stick revolve rapidly between his hands, weighing it with other stones fastened to the top of his stick, until that side of the stone is worn perfectly round and smooth. He then shifts the other side of the stone downwards and works at that until both are smooth and even, choosing a handle of tough wood about four feet long, on which he fixes the stone with gum from the bread fruit tree, leaving about four inches protruding at one end beyond the stone. From this description we may infer how much labor was employed in the manufacture of the quantites of stone implements found in so many different parts of the world.

The fourth and fifth divisions of the subject bring us within the period when metals were the chief article of value. The old was giving place to the new. Men were abandoning their ancient mode of living and adopting more stationary habits. Agriculture was in a great measure displacing hunting and fishing as a means of subsistence. Many of the domestic animals which we use had been introduced, were making their way into the every-day life of the people,