

relatives more or less distant in blood, but still intimately connected with us by language, literature and habits of thought, have spontaneously arranged to take part.

DOMAIN OF SCIENCE.

The domain of science is no doubt one in which the various nations of the civilized world meet upon equal terms, and for which no other passport is required than some evidence of having striven towards the advancement of natural knowledge. Here, on the frontier between the two great English-speaking nations of the world, who is there that does not inwardly feel that anything which conduces to an intimacy between the representatives of two countries, both of them actively engaged in the pursuit of science, may also, through such an intimacy react on the affairs of daily life and aid in preserving those cordial relations that have now for so many years existed between the great American republic and the British Islands, with which her early foundations are indissolubly connected? The present year has witnessed an interchange of courtesies which has excited the warmest feelings of approbation on both sides of the Atlantic. I mean the return to its proper custodians of one of the most interesting of the relics of the Pilgrim fathers, the log of the 'Mayflower.' May this return, trifling in itself, be of happy augury as testifying to the feelings of mutual regard and esteem which animate the hearts both of the donors and of the recipients.

Sir John Evans then referred to his election to the position of president. He regarded it, he said, as a recognition by the association of the value of archaeology as a science, and, leaving all personal consideration out of the question, in full accordance with the attitude already for many years adopted by the association towards anthropology, one of the most important branches of true archaeology.

THE AGE OF MAN.

The eminent speaker then went on to review at great length the progress of the science of archaeology. He first pointed out the difference between and the relation of the work of the archaeologist and that of the geologist, and showed that the labors of the two, checked by those of the palaeontologist, could not do otherwise than lead to sound conclusions. He then took up the subject of the antiquity of man, remarking that probably no fitter place could be found for the discussion of such a topic than the adopted home of 'my venerated friend, the late Sir Daniel Wilson, who first introduced the word "prehistoric" into the English language. 'Of late years,' said Sir John, 'the general tendency of those engaged upon the question of the antiquity of the human race has been in the direction of seeking for evidence by which the existence of men upon the earth could be carried back to a date earlier than that of the quaternary gravels. There is little doubt that such evidence will eventually be forthcoming, but judging from all probability it is not in northern Europe that the cradle of the human race will eventually be discovered, but in some part of the world more favored by a tropical climate where abundant means of subsistence could be procured and where the necessity for warm clothing did not exist.'

Referring to the palaeolithic period and the inhabitants of the world in that age the speaker said that the duration of the palaeolithic period must have extended over an almost incredible length of time is sufficiently proved by the fact that valleys some miles in width and of a depth of from a hundred to a hundred and fifty feet have been eroded since the deposit of the earliest implement-bearing beds.' Continuing, he said: 'As yet our records of discoveries in India and Eastern Asia are but scanty; but it is there that the traces of the cradle of the human race are, in my opinion, to be sought and