

every case, canoes have been found near them, constructed of a simple tree, and called "dugouts."

SITES OF LAKE DWELLINGS.

These were generally on bays having a southern aspect and protection from cold winds. A wood containing game was not far off, as well as good pasture and arable land. The distance from the shore varied in different lakes. But in almost every case there was a bridge or gangway, built on piles, connecting the colony with the shore, and some of these gangways appear to have had at the land end, sentry boxes for watchmen to give the alarm in case of attack or fire. A settlement in the Lake of Bièvre, over six acres in extent, had a gangway 100 yards long and forty wide.

The settlements differed greatly in size. Professor Troyon attempts, by measurement, to calculate the number of people that occupied the Swiss lake dwellings. To those of the stone age he gives 31,875, and to the sixty-eight villages of the bronze period 42,500, but it is scarcely necessary to say that little reliance can be placed on guesses of this nature. As already hinted, habitations of this kind have been

FOUND IN MANY COUNTRIES

all over the earth. Sir John Lubbock says that the Roumelian fishermen in Lake Prasias "still inhabit wooden cottages built over the water, as in the time of Herodotus," and travellers assert that villages of pile dwellings are numerous along the shores of the lake or gulf of Maracaibo, and in other parts of South America, particularly about the mouths of the Orinoco and the Amazon. They add that these are the invention, not exactly of savages, but of tribes of men in a primitive stage of culture. This remarkable variety of human life is no doubt detected wherever there have been trees to build with, quiet meres to build in, and unquiet neighbours to keep out.

I shall now name a few of the best known Swiss Lake settlements, particularly those typical of the stone, bronze and iron ages, as the Danish antiquarians have designated the chronological succession of periods, from the materials which served for the fabrication of implements, and first.

MEILEN (LAKE ZURICH).

This settlement is of peculiar interest, from the fact that it was the first examined, and further, it belongs almost entirely to the stone age, only one bracelet and one bronze celt having been found so far. All the other antiquities consist of stone, horn, wood and baked clay. Bones of many animals were found, and even some human remains. In 1858 several celts of *nephrite* were taken out of the mud. These and other celts had hafts of stag's horn; and this is common in all the settlements, both of the stone and bronze ages. A single bead of amber has been discovered. The only vegetable substance used for food yet seen are hazel nuts, and all of them are cracked.

ROBENHAUSEN (LAKE PFAEFFIKON).

This and another station on the same lake—Irgendhausen—were examined in 1858. Being buried in peat moors, excavations revealed many facts bearing upon the original condition, development and destruction of these abodes. Even a glimpse of the interior was given. The flooring, when discovered, was *in situ*, though abandoned thousands of years before. The hearthstones remained, and various household utensils, which gave some idea of the occupations of the people as well as of their food and clothing. The colony at Robenhausen covered three acres; and evidence of three successive settlements on the same site was found in the "relic beds," one after the other at irregular intervals. That the earlier huts were destroyed by fire there is no doubt, from the beds of charcoal found with layers of peat between each. Stalls for cattle were distributed amongst the huts shown by the masses of droppings and the quantities of straw and rushes used as litter. Objects having a mutual relation to each other were also found, such as wheat and barley along with bread, and in another place with burnt apples and pears; flax, and articles manufactured of it, such as embroidered cloth, on which are various designs, formed by means of a needle and thread; also cloth, somewhat resembling "checked muslin." Though belonging to the stone age, crucibles with lumps of melted bronze, and in one instance a lump of pure unmelted copper, exist. An "arpion," an instrument made of the top of a young fir tree, with the branches on the stem, was found, resembling in every respect implements used

at the present day by the fishermen on the banks of the Arve, for pulling up strings with hooks sunk at night. Another curious fact is that the inhabitants of certain parts of the Apennines now make their pottery in the same way as did the dwellers in these lacustrine huts.

NIDAU AND MORIGEN (LAKE BIENNE).

The settlement at Nidau proved one of the richest in antiquities. These are of a mixed character, and belong to all three periods. Lying close together on the same lake bottom were works of art indicating different grades of civilization, and telling of centuries far apart. Nidau, therefore, coincides on the one hand with the settlements in the east, which ceased to exist at the beginning of the bronze age, and on the other, it runs parallel with those western colonies founded or developed in course of this period, in which were such a number and variety of bronze instruments used for war, household purposes and as ornaments. Morigen lay in a sheltered position some 984 feet from the shore. In 1852 were found many specimens of arms, implements, parts of horses harness, etc., mostly of bronze, an iron sword shows that the spirit of imitation was the same in all the ages. As the articles of bronze were modelled after those of stone, so here, when bronze was getting scarce, iron was used without any change in the process. Horses' bits discovered leave little doubt of the existence of the domesticated horse in these settlements.

AUVERNIER (LAKE NEUCHÂTEL).

Two colonies have been found here, one of the stone age, comprising two acres, and covered with six feet of water; the other of the bronze age, 100 feet farther from the shore, and covered with fourteen or fifteen feet of water. This is the richest in specimens, and the best representative of the flourishing period called by Professor Desor "le bel âge du bronze." Here too was the largest and best preserved collection of earthenware vessels.

A tomb discovered on the shore near this station, is supposed to prove that the lake dwellers buried their dead on the mainland, the human remains found in the relic beds being the result of accident. This tomb is six feet deep, the same in length, and four feet wide, and is surrounded by large flagstones of erratic blocks from Mont Blanc. Twenty skeletons found here belong to what Professor Ruetimeyer, of Basle, in his "Craniology of Switzerland," calls the "type of Sion"—the same race that constructed these dwellings. The age of this tomb is supposed to be that of the transition from the stone to the bronze age, so that its discovery is regarded as important in determining the ethnography of these people.

MORGES (LAKE OF GENEVA).

Here was found in 1854 specimens of the purest type of the "bel âge du bronze," most artistically worked, and indicating a high degree of civilization. Three settlements were placed side by side in this lake, belonging to three distinct ages. Cemeteries probably for these colonists have been found in the vicinity of Morges, not far from Lausanne. The independence of each of these settlements is regarded as a proof of the succession in the ages of the different archaeological eras; and as refuting the idea long held that the ancient civilizations were all contemporary, as if they had coexisted in neighbouring villages, but under different circumstances. There is another settlement,

MARIN (LAKE NEUCHÂTEL),

which I may name, as it has been referred to the iron age exclusively. It was in a small bay on the north of the lake, where the Zihl carries the waters of the lake on to Lake Bièvre. Nearly all the domestic implements here are of iron. Many of the swords found are supposed to have been made in workshops supplied with every practical appliance, several bearing the maker's trade-mark on them. Some writers consider them as Celts—Helvetic; others as Roman, while others again deny that the Etruscan, Roman or Alamanic races had anything to do with them. Roman remains are found in many of the Swiss cantons, but these have no connection with the ancient dwellings in the lakes. This settlement was certainly amongst the latest of all, and probably existed at a period not long anterior to the arrival of the Romans, as the advanced state of manufactures would seem to imply.

Several questions here suggest themselves. To

what people did these dwellings belong? Why did they select the water in preference to the land? In what state of civilization was the race? At what period did these habitations exist? And when and how did their final destruction occur? These must remain to be considered in a future brief letter.

Toronto, January, 1887.

T. H.

OUR SCOTTISH POET.

BY MINNIE G. FRASER, KINGSTON.

To-night we purpose taking a ramble a-down the banks and braes o' bonnie Doon, and while the waters make music at our feet, gurgling and trilling as they flow, we will cull fair flowers from the banks, and wreath a crown for Nature's truest poet. When Burns gave to the world his wealth of song, the very simplicity and freshness of his verse came like a draught of clear water to thirsty hearts. Milton had set his sublime thoughts to stately measures, but he alone had power to wield the grand instruments, and when later poets attempted to follow in his footsteps they wearied instead of delighting the mind. While the world was waiting, and young genius was longing to break through the bars of fashion, and forsake the Miltonian style, and the lofty platitudes of Pope, away in a Scottish hamlet, one, ignorant of literature, with but little knowledge of the prevailing style, was tuning his heart to strains as sweet as ever mortal sang, until from his soul melodious music wells, and in words which reach the heart he tells of his "sweet Highland Mary." We can see the "gay green birk" and smell the "hawthorn blossom," while "neath their fragrant shade" stands the Ayrshire lover plighting troth with his fair mountain lassie.

In his early career it was in the racy vernacular of the Lowland tongue that Burns wrote. He tells us that if at that time he had known more of the literature of the day, he would never have dared to launch his unpolished verse before the eyes of a fastidious world. We are thankful for all things, even for the ignorance of our poet, for never did the music of his soul pulse in grander harmony than when, from an aching heart, he spoke in the sweet accents of his mother tongue.

What I will endeavour to do in this paper is to point out some traits of character which we find reflected in his poems.

We find in Burns that love of nature which is characteristic of every true poet.

Beneath the magic of his pen the water flowed and the hills were clad in leafy splendour, and the mountain daisy bears its modest crimson-tipped head.

In the second stanza of the poem addressed to this floral gem, there is a communion with Nature showing itself in pastoral touches of poetic beauty.

Alas! its no thy neebor sweet,
The bonnie lark, companion meet,
Bending thee mang the dewy weat,
Wi' speckled breast.
Then upward springing, blyth to meet
The purpling east.

In his poem, "To Mary in Heaven," we note the same intimacy with Nature. Between the poet and the whispering trees and lingering stars there is a sympathy which is unbroken in its charm.

What is the voiceless language which meets his soul? He speaks, and Nature answers him, giving back floods of melody which find an echo in his listening heart.

In Burns there was also a spirit of reverence; it is what we would expect. Wherever there is great intellectual power there is an innate adoration of that which is above all else. It is only the weak-ill-balanced mind which can afford to raise an impious voice against the Omnipotence which rules the universe. Such can afford to do so, having never been able to conceive of anything greater than themselves.

We have only to quote one verse from his poem at the near approach of death to prove that we are right in ascribing to Burns the above trait of character.

O Thou Great Governor of all below,
If I may dare a lifted eye to Thee,
Thy nod can make the tempest cease to blow,
And still the tumult of the angry sea.
With that controlling power assist even me,
Those furious headlong passions to confine,
For all what I feel my power to be,
To rule their torrent in the allowed line,
O, aid me with Thy help, Omnipotence Divine.

We also perceive in him great tenderness for the