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PRIMITIVE MAN.

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Were it not for the impossibility of solving it, an interesting, but withal profitless, speculation would be to try to find out, from the imperfect data at our disposal, the period that has sped away since man first appeared on this little earth of ours. A more deeply interesting, though little less difficult, inquiry would be to ask whether, in those primitive days, separated from ours by a period so vast that we fail to form any adequate conception of it, man was endowed with high moral qualities, and had an intellect capable of grasping the abstruse and complex, or whether, as is far more probable, he came into existence an ignorant savage, with strong passions and small self-restraint.

Milton drew a charming picture of the manly virtues of Adam and the sweet, trustful simplicity of Eve. The vulgar and unreflecting get their rude and fanciful conceptions of the condition of primitive man from his glorious pages. "Paradise Lost" has led us astray, and made us conceive of the ancestors of the human race as they were not and could not be. As presented to us by Milton, Adam was a scholar and a gentleman, versed in the learning of the Commonwealth period, and eagerly trying to increase his stores of knowledge, already ample enough to satisfy ordinary ambition. Alas for those bright pictures of the long-